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# PORT HARDY SECONDARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 27, Port Hardy, B.C. V0N 2P0  
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June 25, 2018

To Parents and Guardians,

An unconfirmed case of scabies disease has been reported to our school, and the student is being treated at home.

We wish to assure parents that the health and safety of our students is always a priority. We have been in contact with the health authority and the family involved. If you suspect your child has a contagious disease, please keep your child at home and contact public health or your family doctor.

Scabies is caused by a mite that burrows under the skin and lays eggs. It creates a rash, which consists of raised tracts, and possibly bumps or blisters. It is most common to appear on finger webs (in between fingers), wrists, elbows, armpits, waistline, thighs and genitalia. Itching is most intense at night. Scabies is transferred by direct skin to skin contact (usually via the hand), or by exchange of clothing.

Scabies is communicable until mites and eggs have been destroyed, usually after one or two treatments. The incubation period is from the time of contact until development of signs and symptoms. Itching begins two to six weeks after exposure for people who have not been previously exposed. People who have been previously infected may develop symptoms from one to four days after re-exposure.

Any student presenting with these signs and symptoms will be excluded from school. Excluded students must have a note from a healthcare provider stating they are under treatment and no longer contagious. Also, affected areas of the skin must be covered in order to return to school.

Please see more detailed information at  
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/hlbc/files/documents/healthfiles/hfile09.pdf>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me or Mr. Pendergast at the school.

Sincerely,

Rena Sweeney  
Principal, Port Hardy Secondary