IS THERE A VACCINE FOR SCABIES?
No. there is not a vaccine for scabies.

IS THERE A TREATMENT FOR SCABIES?
Yes, several lotions are available to treat scabies.

Apply lotion to a clean body from the neck down to the toes and left overnight (eight hours).

After eight hours, take a bath or shower to wash off the lotion. Put on clean clothes.

All clothes, bedding and towels used by the infested person two days before treatment should be washed in hot water; dry in a hot dryer.

A second treatment of the body with the same lotion may be necessary seven -10 days later.

HOW SOON AFTER TREATMENT WILL I FEEL BETTER?
Itching may continue for two - three weeks and does not mean that you are still infested.

Your health care provider may prescribe additional medication to relieve itching if it is severe.

No new burrows or rashes should appear 24-48 hours after effective treatment.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SCABIES, VISIT:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
888.443.7232
www.cdc.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/diseases/scabies/en/

Spokane Regional Health District
Disease Prevention and Response Division
509.324.1442
TDD 509.324.1464
www.srhd.org
SCABIES

What are Scabies?
Scabies is an infestation of the skin with the microscopic mite Sarcoptes scabei. Infestation is common, found world-wide, and affects people of all races and social classes. Scabies spreads rapidly under crowded conditions where there is frequent skin-to-skin contact between people, such as in hospitals, institutions, child-care facilities and nursing homes.

What are the symptoms of scabies?
» Pimple-like irritations, burrows or rash of the skin, more commonly found on:
  › the webbing between the fingers
  › the skin folds on the wrist, elbow or knee
  › the penis
  › the breast
  › or shoulder blades
» Intense itching, especially at night and over most of the body.
» Sores on the body caused by scratching. These sores sometimes become infected with bacteria.

How soon do symptoms appear?
» For a person who has never been infested with scabies, symptoms may take four-six weeks to begin.
» For a person, who has had scabies, symptoms appear within several days.
» You do not become immune to an infestation.

What is the cause of scabies?
Scabies infestation is caused by the microscopic mite Sarcoptes scabei. The fertilized female mite burrows into the skin, depositing eggs in the tunnel behind her. After the eggs are hatched, larvae migrate to the skin surface and eventually change into the adult form. Mating occurs on the skin surface. An adult mite can live up to about a month on a person. Once away from the human body, mites only survive 48-72 hours. The characteristic itchy rash of scabies is an allergic response to the mite.

How do you get scabies?
» By direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person already infested with scabies.
» Contact must be prolonged (a quick handshake or hug will usually not spread infestation).
» Infestation is easily spread to sexual partners and household members.
» Infestation may also occur by sharing clothing, towels and bedding.

WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO GET SCABIES?
» People with weakened immune systems and the elderly are at risk for a more severe form of scabies, called Norwegian or crusted scabies.

CAN I GET SCABIES FROM MY PET?
No. Pets become infested with a different kind of scabies mite. If your pet is infested with scabies, (also called mange) and they have close contact with you, the mite can get under your skin and cause itching and skin irritation. However, the mite dies in a couple of days and does not reproduce.