



health

Department of
Health
FREE STATE PROVINCE

BILHARZIA (SCHISTOSOMIASIS)

Case Definition

The patient may present with blood in urine or stool, rash or itchy skin, fever, chills, coughs and muscle aches can begin within 1-2 months of infection.

Case Management

Suspected cases should be referred to health centre for diagnosis and treatment. Drugs are available for treatment of schistosomiasis.

Contacts

Infected patients should be treated and health education for contacts and community should be intensified

Environmental Health

- Monitor quality of water.
- Conducting awareness campaigns and mounting of signboards.

Prevention and Health Education

- Avoid swimming or playing in fresh water when you are in areas in which schistosomiasis occurs. Drink safe water.
- Bath water should be heated for 5 minutes at 150° F.
- Water held in a storage tank for at least 48 hours should be safe for showering. Vigorous towel drying after an accidental, very brief water exposure may help to prevent the schistosoma parasites from penetrating the skin.