

SUMMER WATER ISSUES



SWIMMERS' ITCH

What causes Swimmers' Itch?

Swimmers' itch is a condition that results when the larval form of a waterfowl parasite (called cercariae) accidentally penetrates into the skin of sensitive individuals. The parasites die, but cause an allergic reaction similar to poison ivy.

Is Swimmers' Itch a health hazard?

No. The swimmers itch organism is not parasitic to humans and causes no human diseases. No treatment is required for the rash. The rash will go away naturally in a few days and there are no lasting effects. The itching can be controlled by the same lotions used for mosquito bites and other itching rashes. Taking a quick shower after swimming will also protect against a potential reaction.

For more information the following links are available:

www.hope.edu/swimmersitch/
www.nhstateparks.com/swimmersitch.html

