



Fifth Disease Information

Fifth Disease, otherwise known as erythema infectiosum and slapped cheek syndrome is a mild rash illness caused by parvovirus B19. Listed below is some general information that we hope will be helpful. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at school or you can contact your family physician with questions.

Incubation Period (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms): Estimated to be 4-14 days, usually 12-14 days.

Symptoms: The first symptoms of fifth disease are usually mild and may include fever, runny nose and headache. These mild symptoms are then followed by a Bright red rash, usually beginning on face with a “slapped cheek” appearance and can spread to trunk and extremities. Rash has lacy appearance and generally clears in 1 week, may recur if warm or upset for up to 1 month.

Method of Transmission: Direct/Indirect contact with respiratory secretions of an infected person.

Control Measures: Communicable up to 5 days prior to, and, to a lesser extent, for 2 days after appearance of rash.

Control: According the Ohio Department of Health it is not necessary to exclude a child from school unless uncomfortable or febrile. Pregnant individuals should notify their physician if they have been exposed. Most will be immune, but those who are not have a small risk of an ill effect on the fetus, particularly the first half of the pregnancy. The importance of good hand washing should be reinforced as well as disinfection of soiled objects. Good hand washing as with any disease is important in the prevention of and spreading of any disease. At school we encourage children to wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the nurse at your child’s school or further information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/parvovirusb19/fifth-disease.html>

Thank You.