

FIFTH'S DISEASE

Human Parvo-virus Infection (Slapped Cheek Virus)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There have been several cases of Fifth's Disease reported in the school. Fifth's Disease is a common, communicable, rash type illness that is most contagious before the rash appears. It is passed primarily through direct contact with respiratory secretions. Fifth's is generally benign unless it is passed to an immune-suppressed person or non-immune pregnant woman. Any pregnant woman working in a school or day care setting should be aware of this and wash their hands frequently.

Symptoms:

1. Red cheeks
2. Lace-like rash on arms, legs, and/or trunk
3. The rash fades and reappears for 1-3 weeks with exposure to heat or sunlight.
4. Once the rash appears, the child is no longer considered contagious and need not be excluded (unless running a fever)

The Center for Disease Control recommends no isolation for this illness. For more information please contact Panhandle Health District @ 415-5100 or your physician.

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