



Fifth Disease

Fifth disease (parvovirus) is a rash illness caused by a virus.

If you think your child has fifth disease:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Children do **not** need to stay home from school and childcare if other rash-causing illnesses are ruled out by a health care provider. Persons with fifth disease are unlikely to be contagious once the rash appears.
- For more information, call Hennepin County Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Your child may have a sore throat or a low-grade fever. Then a rash may develop causing very red cheeks (a “slapped cheek” look). The rash often begins on the cheeks and moves to the arms, upper body, buttocks, and legs. The rash looks very fine, lacy, and pink. It usually fades in 3 to 7 days. However, the rash may come and go for weeks, when your child is in the sunlight or heat.

If your child is infected, it may take 4 to 21 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By coughing or sneezing.
- By touching hands, objects, or surfaces contaminated with the virus.

Contagious period

Until the rash appears.

Call your health care provider

- If your child has a weakened immune system, sickle cell anemia, or other blood disorders and has been exposed to someone with fifth disease.
- If you are a pregnant person who is exposed to fifth disease. Your doctor will decide if a blood test is needed.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing by using a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash right away.
- Wash hands often, but especially after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Using a product that kills germs, clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth.

