



# Molluscum contagiosum

Your child may have been exposed to molluscum contagiosum. Molluscum contagiosum is a common viral skin infection.

## If you think your child has molluscum contagiosum:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Your child does not need to stay home from childcare or school but should cover bumps with clothing if skin-to-skin contact will occur. Avoid swimming or contact sports if the bumps cannot be covered with clothing or a watertight bandage,
- For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

## Parent/Guardian information

### Symptoms

Your child may have bumps on the face, body, arms, or legs. The bumps are small, pale, shiny, and dome-shaped and may be flesh colored, white, or pink. There may be a dimple on the top. The bumps are usually painless and are rarely itchy, red, swollen, or sore.

If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 7 weeks for symptoms to develop. However, it could take up to 6 months.

### Spread

- By skin-to-skin contact with an infected person.
- By using contaminated towels, wash cloths, or equipment.
- By touching or scratching your bumps and then touching another part of your body.

### Contagious period

Until the soft, white core comes out of the center of the bumps. After the bumps begin to heal, the risk of spreading the infection is very low.

### Call your health care provider

If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed.

### Prevention

- Avoid touching, picking, or scratching skin with bumps or blisters.

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- Cover bumps with clothing or a bandage when others will come in contact with the skin. This will help prevent touching or scratching the bumps and help prevent spread.
- Change bandages daily or when dirty. Discard of used bandages in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching the bumps or handling bandages.
- Avoid sharing towels, wash cloths, uniforms, clothing, or other personal items.
- Avoid sharing sports or pool equipment.

Hennepin County Public Health  
Epidemiology  
612-543-5230  
[epi-envhlth@hennepin.us](mailto:epi-envhlth@hennepin.us)

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