



2096 Red Arrow Trail
Madison, WI 53711
608-275-6740

Fifth disease

Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Fifth disease** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date _____.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

What is fifth disease?

Fifth disease, sometimes called "slapped cheek disease," is a viral infection caused by human parvovirus B19. In most instances, fifth disease is a relatively mild, self-limited rash illness of childhood.

What are the symptoms of fifth disease?

The first symptoms are usually fever, runny nose, and headache. This is often followed by a distinctive facial rash often referred to as "slapped cheeks". The facial rash may then progress to a lace-like rash on the chest, back, buttocks, or arms and legs. The rash may be itchy, especially on the soles of the feet. This rash tends to fade and reappear with changes in temperature, sunlight, and emotional stress, and usually goes away in 7-10 days. However, it can last several weeks. Some infected persons do not have any symptoms. Some adults do not develop rash but may complain of painful and swollen joints.

While most individuals infected with parvovirus B19 virus will experience a mild, self-limited infection, some individuals may be at increased risk if they become infected with this virus. While most women infected during pregnancy will not be affected, the virus may increase the risk of miscarriage. In individuals with impaired immune function (e.g. leukemia or cancer) or with chronic red blood cell disorders, such as sickle-cell disease, infection may result in severe anemia. Persons who are exposed to parvovirus B19 and are either pregnant or have an impaired immune function or a chronic red blood cell disorder should consult with their primary care provider.



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How does a person get fifth disease?

Fifth disease is spread through direct contact or by breathing in respiratory secretions from an infected person.

How long does it take to develop fifth disease following exposure?

Four to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. It can take up to 21 days.

How is fifth disease treated?

Fifth disease is self-limiting and does not typically require treatment.

How long is a child with fifth disease excluded from childcare?

Children are excluded from the classroom until fever free for 24 hours.

How can I limit the spread of fifth disease?

All children and adults should practice good hand washing technique. Persons with fifth disease symptoms should seek prompt medical care. *Sharing of drinking cup and eating utensils should be discouraged. Cover you coughs.*