



## FIFTH DISEASE

### What is Fifth Disease?

- Fifth Disease is caused by a virus (human parvovirus B19) and presents as a rash and sometimes affects red blood cells. Typically, the child is not very ill and the rash resolves in 7-10 days, however, recent studies suggest the virus may cause problems in pregnant women, immunocompromised patients and some with low blood cell counts.

### What are symptoms that could occur?

- Fever
- Cheeks take on a flushed or “slapped face” appearance
- Lacy rash on trunk, arms, and legs
- Above rash fades but may reappear in 1 to 3 weeks, especially when exposed to heat, such as exposure to sunlight or a warm bath
- Tiredness
- Not all infected persons develop a rash
- Headache

### How is it spread?

- By direct contact of nose and throat discharges from an infected person
- One to two weeks after exposure, fever and tiredness may begin. The rash may appear by the third week
- Once the rash is present, the person is no longer contagious

### How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary Care Provider evaluation
- Treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms

### Are there complications?

- Pregnant women and parents of children who have an impaired immune system, sickle cell anemia, or other blood disorders should consult their primary care provider.

### Should the sick child be isolated?

- No

### When can the child return to day care or school?

- Children who feel well need not be excluded from school upon the recommendation from their physician

Genesee County Health Department  
630 S. Saginaw Street  
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[www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us)

**Should schools do special cleaning?**

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

**If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?**

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.

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