



MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

What is Molluscum contagiosum?

- It is a disease of the skin caused by a virus

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Most people have no symptoms
- Painless, wart-like lesions on the skin
- Some lesions have a hard, white core, while others may have a dent in the center
- They are the color of skin, but have a waxy appearance
- Can be anywhere on the body, but most common on the face, groin and genitals

How is it spread?

- By direct skin contact
- Often spread through sexual activity
- Can be spread by contact with objects in contact with lesions

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- They can be treated with liquid nitrogen, cautery, laser or chemicals
- They can be scraped off or scooped out
- They may return and need to be treated again

Should the sick child be isolated?

- No, except for infected children with visible lesions should be excluded from close contact sports such as wrestling

When can the child return to day care or school?

- There is no need to exclude a child from attending school.

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.