

Your child may have been exposed to:

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.

- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare and School:

No, if other rash-causing illnesses are ruled out by a healthcare provider.

Symptoms

Your child may have a sore throat or a low-grade fever.

A rash that causes very red cheeks (a "slapped cheek" look) in children. 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 contaminated hands, surfaces, and objects.

Contagious Period

Until the rash appears.

Call your Healthcare 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 woman 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. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Use a product that kills viruses.
- Any pregnant individuals in the home should consult their healthcare provider with regard to exposures.

For more information, call Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) at 573-751-6113 or 866-628-9891 (8-5 Monday thru Friday) or call your local health department.