

## FIFTH DISEASE

### Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education to demonstrate concern and sensitivity for the health and well being of its students, staff, parents and community at large.

The Trumbull Board of Education will cooperate conscientiously with the recommendation of an individual's physician and will disseminate medical information to the school community regarding Fifth Disease.

With respect to this disease, please be advised that each individual must assume the responsibility for the well being of any unborn child they may be carrying. By adopting the procedures set forth, the district assumes no responsibility for complications which may be caused by exposure to Fifth Disease.

Adopted: 1/03/89  
Revised: 10/23/01

**Regulations**

In the event that two or more cases are identified in any one school, the following procedure shall be implemented:

1. All staff members in the school are to be notified; and
2. Counseling shall be offered on a one-to-one basis for all interested pregnant staff members.

In counseling the staff member shall be made aware of the following statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS COMMITTEE  
ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES PEDIATRICS VOL. 85 NO. 10  
JANUARY, 1990

Women who are exposed to children at work (such as teachers or day care workers) or at home are at increased risk of infection with parvo virus B19 (the virus which causes fifth disease). However, because of widespread inapparent infection in both adults and children, all women are at some risk of exposure, particularly those women with school aged children. In view of the high prevalence of parvo virus B19, the low risk of ill effect to the fetus, and the fact that avoidance of child care or teaching can only reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of infection, a routine policy of exclusion of pregnant women from the work place where erythema infectiosum is occurring is not recommended. However, pregnant health care workers should not care for patients with aplastic crisis, who may be highly contagious. Eventually, when IgG testing for parvo virus B19 antibody is widely available, women at increased risk may be able to have their susceptibility determined.

Transmission of infection can be lessened by routine hygienic practices for control of respiratory secretions, which include hand washing and the disposal of facial tissues containing secretions.

The risk of fetal death to a woman exposed to parvo virus B19 occupationally would be expected to be much less than 1%.

3. All staff members will be informed during this counseling session to obtain the advice of their physician regarding the procedure that they should follow. Staff members should report this procedure to the School Nurse – AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. It is recommended that the physician have the staff member tested for immunity to the parvo virus B19. The result of this testing should influence the physician's recommendation concerning the necessity for exclusion from the class room.

Approved: 10/23/01