

FIFTH DISEASE- (Parvovirus) is a rash illness caused by a virus.

- **Symptoms:** Your child may have a sore throat, low-grade fever and a rash. The rash causes very red cheeks (a “slapped cheek” appearance) 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 appear.
- **Spread:** Fifth Disease is spread by coughing or sneezing and by touching contaminated hands, surfaces and objects.
- **Contagious Period:** The child is contagious until the rash appears. The child does not need to be excluded from school if the child’s temperature remains below 100 degrees without fever reducing medications and other rash-causing illnesses are ruled out by a healthcare provider.
- **Call Your Healthcare Provider:** Contact your 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 a pregnant woman has been exposed, she should contact her physician and seek further advice.
- **Prevention:** You should cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing by using your sleeve or a tissue and properly dispose of the used tissue. Wash you hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing. Use a product that kills viruses to clean and disinfect any object that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. All pregnant individuals in the home should consult their healthcare provider with regard to exposure.

Source- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents or Guardians; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention)