Fifth Disease

Fifth disease is a common childhood illness caused by a virus. It usually occurs in late winter and early spring. The most common symptom is a red rash that first appears on the cheeks and face and then a lacey rash which develops over the upper arms and legs. It is also called slapped cheek rash. The rash usually does not involve the skin around the mouth, eye lids or chin. The rash may come and go over a 2-3 week period. It shows up more when the skin gets hot or irritated (for example from hot baths, exposure to sunlight, or when crying or exercising).

Your child does not need to stay home from school. Fifth disease is only catchy (*contagious*) the week before the rash appears. No treatment is needed. **It is recommended that children with fifth disease not be exposed to women who are pregnant.**

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS:

- Fever, headache, vomiting, or if the rash becomes itchy.

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