

Fifth Disease

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.

Spread

- By coughing or sneezing.
- By touching contaminated hands, surfaces, and objects.

Incubation Period

If your child is infected, it may take 4 to 21 days for symptoms to start.

Contagious Period

Most contagious before the beginning of the rash and unlikely to be contagious after the rash begins.

Exclusion from School

None, if other rash-causing illnesses are ruled out by a healthcare provider. Persons with fifth disease are no longer infectious once the rash begins.

Treatment: None. Please call your health care provider for a diagnosis.

Thank you,

School Nurse