

## What is Fifth Disease?

Fifth Disease is usually a mild illness that is spread by respiratory secretions. It is a viral illness caused by parvovirus (B-19) that mostly occurs in children and is known for a typical rash that resembles “slapped-cheeks.” The rash may spread to other parts of the body as well. Other cold-like symptoms may be observed before the rash breakout including low-grade fever, mild headache, joint pain, or fatigue. Once the rash appears, the child is most likely no longer contagious.

Fact sheets from the State of Connecticut DPH and the CDC can be found in the links below which include information about cause, transmission, and course of the illness as well as adult exposure during pregnancy. Anyone who may be pregnant, immunocompromised or has a blood disorder should contact his or her physician for medical advice.

If you have any concerns about the exposure or health risk to you or your child, please contact your physician for advice.

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/parvovirusb19/fifth-disease.html>

CT DPH - <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=388310>