



What is Fifth Disease?

- A mild rash caused by the virus Parvovirus B19. Recent studies suggest the virus may cause severe illness in pregnant women, immunocompromised patients and some with low blood cell counts.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Fever
- Lacy red, itchy rash on cheeks which may spread
- Lacy red rash on trunk, arms, and legs
- Tiredness
- Not all infected persons develop a rash (20% do not develop any symptoms)

How is it spread?

- Person-to-person by direct contact of nose and throat discharges from an infected person
- One to two weeks after exposure, fever and tiredness may begin; a rash may appear by the third week
- Person may spread virus before rash begins; once the rash is present, the person is no longer contagious
- 50% of adults have been infected with the virus and have developed immunity

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary Care Provider evaluation
- Treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms

Are there complications?

- Pregnant women and parents of children who have an impaired immune system, sickle cell anemia, or other blood disorders should consult their primary care provider

How can it be prevented?

- Wash hands often, especially after touching droplets from the mouth or nose
- Cough or sneeze into tissue and throw away promptly

Should the individual be isolated?

- No

When can the individual return to the population?

- Individuals who feel well need not be excluded upon the recommendation from their physician

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017