

Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## HEALTH UPDATE: Fifth Disease

Dear ECLC Parents,

I wanted you to be aware that we have a case of "fifth disease" in our Leo Lionni class.

Fifth disease is caused by a virus called the human parvovirus B19. It is passed from person to person through respiratory secretions and blood. It is usually mild and quickly resolves on its own.

The disease may start with a low-grade fever, with a rash appearing next. The rash is a raised, red, warm rash that first appears on the cheeks, giving the child a "slapped cheek" appearance". After 1-4 days, a lace-like rash may spread to the rest of the body. By the time the rash appears, the child is unlikely to be contagious.

As with most infections, the best prevention is practicing frequent hand-washing.

For the further information I recommend the website: `

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/skin/fifth.html>

Thank you and kind regards,

Alison  
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