

FIFTH DISEASE

School _____

Date _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have had a confirmed case of Fifth Disease at school. Fifth Disease is a viral infection, spread through respiratory droplets that causes a red rash to develop on the cheeks, giving the "slapped cheek" appearance. As those rash fades, a lacy or net-like rash appears on the arms, moving to the legs and trunk. This "under the skin" appearing rash can last for several weeks, increasing and decreasing in intensity.

The vast majority of children recover without problems, but Fifth Disease may cause complications in children who have blood abnormalities such as sickle cell disease.

Pregnant women who have been exposed should consult their physician.

By the time the rash appears, the contagious stage of the disease has passed, and the child may remain in school.

Please consult your physician if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Reference: American Academy of Pediatrics
Texas Department of State Health Service, 2013