



### **What is it?**

Molluscum contagiosum is a skin infection caused by a virus.

### **Who is at risk?**

People with a weak immune system might have a more severe infection. Additionally, children are more likely to get molluscum than adults.

### **How is it spread?**

Molluscum contagiosum is spread through direct contact with the skin of an infected person or by sexual contact. Scratching can also spread the infection.

### **Signs and symptoms**

- Tiny "pinpoints" appear on the skin one to six months after exposure.
- The "pinpoints" grow into pinkish-white bumps that are smooth and shiny.
- Bumps have a dip in the middle and a milky-white liquid inside.
- Bumps can appear anywhere on the body.

### **Diagnosis**

It is usually diagnosed by its appearance but can often be mistaken for a wart.

### **Treatment**

Sometimes the infection disappears on its own without treatment. Even if treated, molluscum can reappear. Podophyllin, liquid nitrogen or surgical removal can treat molluscum. Treatment may need to be repeated.

### **Prevention & Control**

The use of condoms lowers the chances of contracting molluscum contagiosum through sexual contact. Frequent and proper hand washing is a good practice for preventing direct contact transmission.

### **Public Health's Role**

Although molluscum contagiosum is not a reportable disease, Public Health is available for information and guidance.

### **Whom should I talk to if I have any questions?**

Communicable Disease Control, Algoma Public Health at (705) 942-4646, [www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com), or your health care provider.