



What is it?

- A mild viral disease that causes a red rash.
- Parvovirus B19 is recognized as the cause of fifth disease.
- More common in children.
- Can cause complications for the following persons – pregnant women, persons with sickle cell anemia, persons with weakened immune systems (e.g. cancer, AIDS)

What are the symptoms?

- Coughing, sneezing, slight or no fever
- Very red cheeks (slapped-face appearance.)
- Lace-like rash on the arms, legs and trunk.
- Rash comes and goes for 1 to 3 weeks.
- Exposure to sunlight or heat (e.g. bathing) brings out rash.
- Adults may not have a rash but may have joint pains lasting days to months.

How quickly do symptoms develop?

- Within 4 – 20 days after coming in contact with the virus.

How is it spread?

- ~~Like a cold Through the air and~~ Contact with respiratory secretions (nose and throat discharges).
- A pregnant woman can pass it to her unborn child.

How long is it contagious?

- ~~Probably~~ Not contagious after rash develops.
- Children with Fifth disease may continue to attend school/daycare if they do not have a fever and feel well enough to take part in activities.

How is it treated?

- No specific treatment.

What can you do?

- Exposed pregnant women or infected persons who could have complications should contact their doctor.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, face cloths and towels.
- Wash your hands frequently.

Whom should I talk to if I have any questions?

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