



## **Fifth Disease (*Erythema Infectiosum*)**

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A student in your child's classroom has been reported as having Fifth Disease. This is a contagious, usually mild, viral illness. Fifth Disease is thought to be spread by the respiratory route. The incubation period is 4-14 days. Early symptoms include a low grade fever and a blotchy, or raised, rash over the cheeks with a "slapped face" appearance. Within 1-2 days a symmetric rash appears on the arms, legs, and trunk, usually avoiding the palms of hands and soles of feet.

The illness usually lasts 5-10 days, but the rash may return for several weeks afterward. The rash is worsened by sunlight, exercise, heat, fever, or emotional stress.

Should your child develop any of the above symptoms, to guard the health of your child and others, please keep your child at home. Consult your physician. Report the illness to the school.

Your child may return to school when the fever has been absent without medication for 24 hours. Students are no longer contagious after the appearance of the rash.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Child Development Preschool Nurses

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