

FIFTH DISEASE

A child in your class has been diagnosed with fifth disease also known as (erythema infectiosum).

Fifth disease is a temporary illness caused by a virus. It generally occurs in children between the ages of 5-15. The illness begins with a low-grade fever and a sense of not feeling well. This is followed by a characteristic bright red rash on the cheeks (the so called “slapped cheeks” rash). Finally, a fine, red lace-like rash can develop over the rest of the body. This rash may last for 5 days to a week and can occasionally come and go for 3 weeks.

Your child may return to school after the fever subsides and he or she feels well. The child is not contagious when rash appears.

As always if your child has these symptoms seek advice from your pediatrician. Also, for those mothers who are pregnant, inform your obstetrician of any childhood disease with which you come in contact.