

HEALTH SERVICES – FIFTH DISEASE

What is fifth disease? – Fifth disease is a mild rash illness that occurs mostly in children. The ill child typically has a rash on the face (called slapped cheek rash) and a lacy red rash on the trunk and limbs. The rash may or may not itch. The child may have a low grade fever, be tired, or have chills a few days before breaking out with the rash. The child is not usually very ill, and the rash will go away in 7-10 days.

What causes Fifth Disease? – It is caused by infection with human parvovirus B19. This virus infects only humans, which is different from the virus that infects dogs or cats.

When can a child return to school? – Fifth disease is contagious during the early part of the illness, before the rash appears. Once the rash appears, the child is usually no longer contagious and may return to school if they are feeling well.