

FIFTH'S DISEASE (PARVOVIRUS B19)



"LACY" RASH



FACIAL RASH



Cause



- caused by a virus
- transmitted by direct contact with infected person's saliva, nasal secretions, and/or sputum
- the virus is passed from one person to another for several days before rash becomes evident
- about half of all adults have been infected in the past (are immune); most often infects children
- there are also animal parvovirus's, but they are not transmitted to humans

Symptoms



- typically a “slapped-cheek” rash on the face
- lacy red rash on the trunk and limbs, which may be itchy, and may fade and reappear when exposed to heat from bathing or sunlight from 1-3 weeks
- adults may have joint pain and swelling

Treatment



- usually none for routine cases, but may need to treat fever, aches, and itching (supportive treatment for symptoms only)
- possible to develop complications from the disease, such as anemia

Work Restrictions



- **If diagnosed with Fifth's Disease**, there are no work restrictions or modification of work practices. (The disease is no longer able to be passed to other people once the rash develops).
- **If exposed to Fifth's Disease**, staff should not care for immunocompromised patients during the incubation period, which is 4-14 days, or until confirmation of immunity by blood test. **Contact Occupational Health to arrange.**
- **If family member has Fifth's Disease**, there are no work restrictions or modification of work practices.
- **Pregnant staff** should seek medical advice for confirmation of diagnosis and management.

Prevention



- good hand hygiene at all times, and adherence to Infection Control measures
- do not share drinking cups or utensils