

WE HAVE A CASE OF PARVOVIRUS AT CIS

There has been detected a case of Parvovirus also called the Fifth disease or "Slap face" in the primary school.

Signs and Symptoms

Especially common in kids between the ages of 5 and 15, parvovirus typically produces a distinctive red rash on the face that makes the child appear to have a "slapped cheek." Several days later, the rash spreads and red blotches (usually lighter in colour) extend down to the trunk, arms, and legs. Older kids and adults sometimes complain that the rash itches. Parvovirus is actually just a viral illness that most kids recover from quickly and without complications.

Parvovirus occurs everywhere in the world. Outbreaks of parvovirus tend to happen in the late winter and early spring.



Contagiousness

A person with parvovirus infection is most contagious before the rash appears. Parvovirus spreads easily from person to person in fluids from the nose, mouth, and throat of someone with the infection. Children with parvovirus may attend childcare or school, since they are no longer contagious. Once infected with parvovirus, a person develops immunity to it.

Prevention

There is no vaccine for parvovirus, and no real way to prevent spreading the virus. Practicing good hygiene, especially frequent hand washing, is always a good idea since it can help prevent the spread of many infections.

Incubation

The incubation period (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms) for parvovirus ranges from 4 to 28 days.

Duration

It may take 1 to 3 weeks for the rash to completely clear.

Diagnosis

Doctors can usually diagnose parvovirus by the distinctive rash on the face and body. If a child or adult has no telltale rash but has been sick for a while, a doctor may perform blood tests to see if the illness could be caused by parvovirus.

Treatment

Parvovirus is caused by a virus, and it cannot be treated. Usually, kids with parvovirus feel fairly well and need little home treatment other than rest.

Pregnancy

Parvovirus infection during pregnancy may cause problems for the fetus, especially if the infection occurs during the first half of the pregnancy. If you're pregnant and develop a rash or if you've been exposed to someone with parvovirus (or to anyone with an unusual rash), call your family doctor.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact the School Health Nurse, Charlotte.