

# Fifth Disease Notification

On \_\_\_\_\_, a child in this childcare center was diagnosed with fifth disease.

**What is it?** Fifth disease is also called erythema infectiosum or “slapped cheek disease”. It is spread through direct contact or by respiratory droplets. Once the rash develops the child is no longer contagious. Therefore, a child does not need to be excluded from day care.

## What to watch for?

- It begins with a mild fever and complaints of tiredness.
- Then a red rash develops. It resembles slapped cheeks.
- Also could develop a lacy, pink rash on the backs of the arms and legs, torso, and buttocks.

## How can we prevent it?

- Good hand washing.

## What can we do at home?

- Keep the child comfortable.
- Watch for signs of a more serious illness, such as fever greater than 102 degrees or a very sick child.

## When do we call a doctor?

- Fifth disease is harmless in children, but can be a risk in developing fetuses.
- Any pregnant woman must contact her doctor about an exposure.
- Children with impaired immune systems are also at risk, contact your doctor.