Fifth's Disease

Cause: Human Parvovirus B19

Symptoms: Rash, sometimes fever or sore throat. Rash has a very fine, lacy pink appearance. It causes a striking redness of the cheeks and is later found on the arms, upper body, buttocks and legs. Rash tends to come and go for days or weeks, especially in response to sunlight or heat. Facial rash will fade within 4 days while the body rash will fade in 3-7 days.

Incubation: 4-14 days usually 12-14 days. It is spread person-to-person through respiratory secretions. Child is contagious before rash begins.

Can child come to school: After diagnosis, no exclusion from school.

Prevention/Control: As with all diseases, hand washing is important. Dispose of tissues properly. There is no treatment. Preventive measures are unnecessary.

If someone in your home is pregnant and has been exposed to Fifth's Disease, you should contact your doctor for further information.

Please contact your school nurse if your child is diagnosed with Fifth's Disease.