Sample Fifth Disease Notification Letter

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

There have been some reported cases of fifth disease in your child's classroom. Fifth disease is a viral infection caused by human parvovirus B19. In most instances fifth disease is a relatively mild, self-limited rash illness of childhood.

Four to fourteen days after exposure to the virus, an individual may experience low-grade fever and tiredness. This is often followed by a distinctive facial rash often referred to as "slapped cheeks." The facial rash may then progress to a lace-like rash on the trunk, legs, and arms. This rash tends to fade and reappear with changes in temperature, sunlight, and emotional stress.

Approximately 20 percent of infected children and adults do not have any symptoms. Some adults do not develop a rash but may complain of painful and swollen joints.

The virus is spread by exposure to airborne droplets from the nose and throat of infected individuals. Persons with fifth disease appear to be contagious during the week before the appearance of their rash. Exclusion from school is not required with fifth disease because by the time the rash is evident, the individual is probably beyond the contagious period.

There is no specific medical treatment for fifth disease. We do urge you to observe your child(ren) closely and call the school if you suspect your child has contracted fifth disease so we can track the spread of this disease. If your child develops a rash and you are unsure of its origin, please contact your physician before sending your child to school.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*\*Individuals who are pregnant, suspect they may be pregnant, or are immunosuppressed should contact their physician regarding their possible exposure to this disease.*

Information Adapted from Department of Health Services Bureau of Communicable Diseases

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/childhood-communicable-diseases.htm>