



## Fifth Disease

### What is fifth disease?

A virus causes fifth disease. Your child has fifth disease if:

- Your child has a bright red or rosy rash on both cheeks for 1 to 3 days. It looks like the cheeks have been slapped.
- After the rash on the cheeks, you see a pink lacelike or netlike rash on the arms and legs. This is mostly on the thighs and upper arms.
- The lace-like rash comes and goes several times for 1 to 3 weeks.
- Your child has a low-grade fever or no fever at all.

### How can I take care of my child?

You don't really need to do anything. The rash is harmless. There is no itching, pain, or other problems.

- **Make sure your child does not spread the disease to others.** Children who have been around fifth disease come down with the rash in 10 to 14 days. Your child can spread the disease to others during the week **before** you see the rash. Make sure your child stays away from others if you know your child has been around someone with fifth disease. Once a child has the rash, he or she can no longer spread the disease. The child does not need to stay home from day care or school.
- **This disease can be a problem to pregnant women.** If your child has been around a pregnant woman, tell her to see her doctor. If she has not had the disease before, she may need special care. Fifth disease can cause problems for the unborn baby.

### Call during office hours if:

- Your child gets a fever.
- You have other concerns or questions.