

# Fifth Disease

## What is Fifth disease?

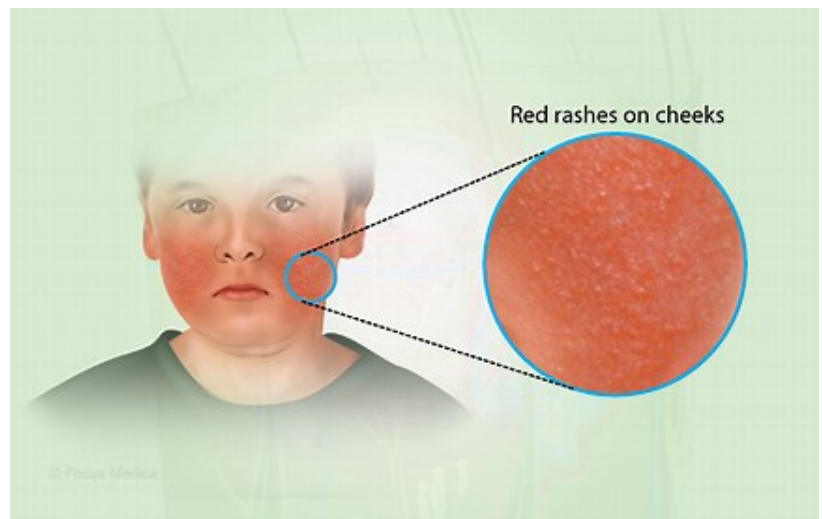
Fifth disease is a mild rash illness caused by parvovirus B19. It is more common in children than adults. It is also called erythema infectiosum.

## What are the signs and symptoms of Fifth disease?

Symptoms from Fifth disease are typically mild and may include fever, runny nose, headache and rash. The rash, often called a “slapped cheek” rash, is the most recognized feature of Fifth disease. The rash may also occur on the chest, back, buttocks, arms, and legs. This rash usually lasts 7-10 days.

## How is Fifth disease transmitted?

Parvovirus B19, which causes Fifth disease, spreads through respiratory secretions such as saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus, when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People with Fifth disease are most contagious when they feel like they have “just a cold,” before the rash appears. After the rash appears, people are typically no longer infectious. Parvovirus B19 can also be spread through blood or blood products.



## How can we prevent Fifth disease infections?

The best way to prevent Fifth disease is to wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. There is no vaccine for Fifth disease. Other typical disease--prevention measures will help prevent Fifth disease. This includes covering your cough/sneeze, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you are sick.

## What is the treatment for Fifth disease?

Fifth disease is usually mild and will go away on its own. Treatment involves relieving symptoms such as fever and itching.

For more information, visit [www.CDC.gov/parvovirusb19/fifth-disease.html](http://www.CDC.gov/parvovirusb19/fifth-disease.html)

