

Fifth Disease**DEFINITION**

Fifth Disease is a mild rash illness that usually affects children. It is caused by the parvovirus B19 that lives in the nose and throat and can be spread from person to person. Most cases of Fifth Disease occur in late winter or early spring. Clusters or outbreaks of illness among children in schools or day-care centers are not unusual. In rare situations, miscarriages and stillbirths have been associated with Fifth Disease during pregnancy.

Questions about Fifth Disease: Persons who have concerns about Fifth Disease and other communicable diseases are urged to contact their personal physician and follow the advice of the physician. Such persons shall share concerns with an administrator or school nurse.

II. TRANSFERS FOR PREGNANT STAFF MEMBERS

- A. Any staff member who is pregnant and reasonably believes that continuation in the same position will cause injury to her or to her fetus due to exposure to Fifth Disease or other communicable disease may request a transfer should a vacancy exist. The request must be in writing and accompanied by a statement from a physician giving notice of the pregnancy. The request shall be submitted to the assistant superintendent for personnel with a copy to the unit administrator. The assistant superintendent for personnel will make reasonable efforts to honor such requests in accordance with existing policies or any applicable contract provisions when there are suitable temporary positions available.
- B. The denial of any such request for transfer may be appealed to the superintendent of schools.

III. SICK LEAVE

- A. Staff members who wish to use paid sick leave available to them because of potential exposure to Fifth Disease or other communicable disease are requested to follow the current procedures under existing policies or any contract provisions. A written statement from a physician that their health indicates that they should not be at work is required upon the commencement of the absence. Any such request and/or physician's statement shall indicate the recommended duration of the absence on sick leave.
- B. Staff members who do not have paid sick leave available to them may apply for a leave of absence. Such requests must be in writing and shall be accompanied by the same physician's statement.

Fifth Disease (continued)

IV. POSTING OF INFORMATION REGARDING FIFTH DISEASE

It shall be the responsibility of the administration to post on all employee bulletin boards information on Fifth Disease as received from the State Department.

Regulation Approved: 2/27/95