



March 9, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are experiencing cases of Fifth disease in our school. Fifth disease is a mild viral infection so named because it was the fifth of the childhood rashes to be detected by physicians. Outbreaks of this illness among children in elementary school are not unusual. The following information can help you decide if your child may also be experiencing the same illness and needs to see a doctor.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

- Usually mild and may include a low fever, runny nose, headache.
- About a week later, a rash appears beginning with bright redness of the cheeks (slapped cheek appearance). The cheeks are hot but not painful.
- There may be scattered red raised spots on the chin, forehead, and behind the ears.
- Within 2-3 days a lace-like rash spreads to upper arms and legs and sometimes the trunk. This lacy rash may disappear and then reappear over a period of weeks.
- Adults may not develop the rash but may experience aching in the joints, particularly at the wrist and knees.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: BEFORE the appearance of the rash during the mild symptoms.

TRANSMISSION: Contact with the secretions from the nose, mouth, and throat of the infected person.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: Fever-free children who are diagnosed with Fifth disease by a physician may return to school even though the rash is still present. The distinctive rash causes no significant symptoms that require special treatment. A doctor's note must be provided to the school in order to return.

PREVENTION: There is no vaccine or medicine that can prevent Fifth disease. You can reduce your chance of being infected or infecting others by:

- Washing your hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water
- Covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Not touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Staying home when you are sick

Contact your health care provider if your child is experiencing symptoms, if symptoms are worsening, or if you have any other concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Melanie Klages, RN, Charter School Authority Nurse

www.CapeCharterSchools.org

Christa McAuliffe
Elementary School
2817 SW 3rd Lane
Cape Coral, FL
33991

Phone:
(239) 283-4511
Fax:
(239) 282-0376

Oasis High School
3519 Oasis Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone:
(239) 541-1167

Oasis Middle School
3507 Oasis Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone:
(239) 945-1999

Oasis Elementary School
3415 Oasis Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone:
(239) 542-1577

Charter School
Governing Board
3519 Oasis Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone:
(239) 424-6100

