

## LETTER TO PARENTS AND STAFF

Date : May 16, 2019

**Subject: Infectious erythema (also known as Fifth Disease)**

Dear parents

A case of Fifth Disease (infectious erythema) was recently diagnosed at your daycare or school.

This is a minor illness for most people, but for those who suffer from immunosuppression or who have blood disorders such as sickle-cell anemia or other hemoglobin diseases, there may be complications. In some pregnant women, the infection may also affect the fetus. Should these types of persons have had contact with a person infected by the Fifth Disease, they should see a doctor and bring this letter to their medical consultation.

This infection can be transmitted in the same way as a cold, i.e. through nose or mouth secretions. In children, the first symptom of the infection is facial flush (very red cheeks) that progressively migrates to the trunk, arms and legs. Over the following three weeks, the rash may vanish then reappear due to the effects of heat (bath, friction, sun, physical exercise).

Persons infected with Fifth Disease are contagious during the 7-day period that precedes the appearance of the rash. The disease clears up spontaneously.

Please advise the daycare or school if your child has a rash. However, children can continue to attend daycare or school if their general state of health is good.

Thank you for your co-operation.