

February 11, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As with other schools in the area, we have had a few students with “Fifth Disease.”

Fifth Disease is a common childhood disease caused by the Parvovirus. The illness is usually mild with symptoms of the “common cold” in the early stages. After 3 – 5 days, the child may develop a “slapped cheek” rash on the face and a lacy red rash on the trunk and extremities. There is no vaccine for the disease. By the time the rash appears, the person is no longer contagious.

A person with the rash of fifth disease does **not** need to be excluded. The best prevention of this and any disease is frequent handwashing. The Center Area School District has installed hand sanitizers throughout the buildings. Staff and students have been instructed to use the sanitizers as needed throughout the day. The custodial staff will continue to sanitize desktops and other high contact areas.

Under normal conditions, medical treatment is not necessary but you should contact your family physician with any questions and to confirm the disease. **Pregnant women or persons with impaired immune systems should always contact their doctor for further advice if they are exposed to a person with Fifth Disease.**

Please contact the school nurse at 724-775-8201 ext. 3011 with any questions concerning this letter. A fact sheet about the disease is on the back for your reference.

Mrs. Barb Magnotta, RN, BSN, MSN, School Nurse