



Bass Hill Public School

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Bass Hill Public School has been advised that a student of the school community has recently contracted Slapped Cheek (Fifth Disease). Students and staff may have had contact with a person who was infectious with Slapped Cheek.

What are the symptoms of fifth disease?

In children, the symptoms of fifth disease are often mild and you may not notice them in your child. The symptoms in a child may include a mild fever, headache and cold symptoms, such as a runny nose.

A few days later, a bright red rash, like the mark left by a slap, appears on the cheeks. Over the next 2 – 4 days a pink lacy rash appears on the trunk and limbs. This may be itchy. The rash usually clears up in 7 – 10 days.

Some children may experience the body rash coming and going for a few weeks — generally brought on by heat or sunlight.

Children may get joint pain as a symptom, although this is not common in children.

Children with blood disorders such as spherocytosis or sickle cell disease may become more anaemic. They should seek medical care.

Adults with fifth disease may not have any symptoms at all, or they may have joint pain and stiffness, but they don't usually get the slapped cheek rash. The joint pain can take 1 – 2 weeks to go away. Sometimes it lasts longer, even months or years.

More information See website: <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/fifth-disease>

If you have any further questions or queries, please feel free to contact the office on 02 9644 3431.

Kind Regards
Amanda Dawoud
Relieving Principal