**Slapped cheek information for Parents**

Please watch your child for the following symptoms. If your child has the symptoms below, please call your child’s healthcare provider for guidance.

**Slapped cheek syndrome is a type of viral infection that is most common in children, although it can affect anyone of any age.**

The most common symptom of slapped cheek syndrome is the appearance of a distinctive bright red rash that begins on the cheeks and spreads to the trunk and limbs. Most children will not need treatment as slapped cheek syndrome is usually a very mild condition that passes in a few days. Occasionally it can last up to four or five weeks. The rash usually fades within a week, but it can come and go for several weeks, often appearing after exercise or sun exposure. The rash can be itchy. The rash may be preceded or accompanied by a mild fever and "cold" symptoms.

Slapped cheek is contagious 1-2 weeks **before** the rash appears. Once the rash appears, the disease is usually not contagious. After exposure to the contagious period of Fifth Disease, it typically takes 2-3 weeks to develop the illness.

Pregnant women and people with blood disorders and immune problems who are exposed to fifth Disease should consult their health provider.

A child with Fifth Disease does not need to stay home as long as she/he is feeling well enough to participate in the program's activities.

If you have any questions or would like any further information please feel free to talk to a member of the Management Team at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Management Team