

☞ Washington Township School District ☞
"Making a Difference"

Brass Castle School
16 Castle St.
Washington, NJ 07882
908-689-1188
Jessica L. Garcia, *Principal*

District Central Office
Old Schoolhouse
One East Front Street
Washington, NJ 07882
908-689-1119
Keith T. Neuhs, *Superintendent*

Port Colden School
30 Port Colden Rd.
Washington, NJ 07882
908-689-0681
Michael J. Neu, *Principal*

June 12, 2018

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian,

A student at Brass Castle School have recently been diagnosed with fifth disease. Fifth disease is a mild rash illness caused by parvovirus B19. It is more common in children than adults. A person usually gets sick with fifth disease within 4 to 14 days after getting infected with parvovirus B19.

The virus which causes fifth disease spreads through respiratory secretions (such as saliva or nasal mucus) when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Your child is most contagious when it seems like they have "just a cold" and before your child gets the rash. After your child gets the rash they are not likely to be contagious, so then it is usually safe for your child to go back to work or school. The first symptoms of fifth disease are usually mild and may include **fever, runny nose, and headache**. After several days, your child may get a **red rash** on their face called "slapped cheek" rash. This rash is the most recognized feature of fifth disease. It is more common in children than adults. Some people may get a second rash a few days later on their chest, back, buttocks, or arms and legs. The rash may be itchy, especially on the soles of the feet. It can vary in intensity and usually goes away in 7 to 10 days, but it can come and go for several weeks. As it starts to go away, it may look lacy.

There is no vaccine or medicine that can prevent fifth disease. Your child can reduce their chance of being infected or infecting others by:

- washing their hands often with soap and water
- covering their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze
- not touching their eyes, nose, or mouth
- avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- **staying home when they are sick**

After your child gets the rash, they are probably not contagious, so it is then safe for your child to return to school. **Any child with a fever should not attend school.** If your child develops a fever, please do not send them to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.

If your child has any symptoms of this disease (initially general "cold" symptoms), call your doctor or other healthcare provider to find out what to do. Be sure to tell him or her about this notice.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/parvovirusb19/fifth-disease.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse, Yvette Shangold, at 908-689-1188 ext. 3607.

Thank you,

WTSD Administration