



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2025

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MOVHD issues warning of Fifth's Disease

In recent weeks, there has been an increase in rash-like illness affecting the Wood County community -- particularly school-aged children.

Many patients have not received a confirmed diagnosis from a healthcare provider. However, a number of those who have been seen by a doctor have been diagnosed with Fifth's disease.

Parvovirus B19, also known as Fifth's disease, spreads through respiratory droplets, contact with blood, and during pregnancy from the mother to the child. Symptoms can include fever, headache, cough, sore throat, tiredness and muscle aches. A person is most contagious during the first few days of their symptoms. They are unlikely to be contagious after they get later symptoms, which include a red "slapped cheek" rash, and possible joint pain that is more common in adults and women. The rash can appear on the chest, back, buttocks, arms, or legs, and may be itchy. It usually goes away in 7 to 10 days, but can come and go for weeks. Adults may experience joint pain and no other symptoms. Joint pain affects both sides, usually the hands, feet and knees, and lasts 1-3 weeks, but can last for months. Once someone has been infected with Fifth's disease, however, they have immunity in the future.

Should you or your child develop flu-like symptoms, it is recommended to remain home until 24 hours after the fever has ended and any other symptoms improve. If you are concerned about a rash, consult your healthcare provider.

While there is no vaccine to prevent Fifth's disease, you can reduce your and your family's chances of getting it by washing your hands often, avoiding touching your face, not sharing food or drinks and avoiding contact with people who are sick. It is recommended that childcare settings and schools clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

For more information about Fifth's disease, visit [cdc.gov/parvovirus-b19/about/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/parvovirus-b19/about/index.html)

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The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department serves Wood, Wirt, Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie and Roane Counties. Its main office is located at 1824 Murdoch Ave. in Parkersburg. The offices are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 304-485-7374 or visit the website, movhd.com for more information. Follow them at Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department MOVHD on Facebook, @MOVHealthDept on Instagram, Twitter and YouTube and look for them on LinkedIn.