[Date Here]

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s),

This letter is to inform you that an individual at the school was recently diagnosed with fifth disease. Fifth disease, also known as erythema infectiosum is an infectious disease. Fifth disease is caused by parvovirus B19 and is a mild rash illness that is more common in children than adults. After getting infected with parvovirus, individuals generally become sick with fifth disease within four to 14 days.

The signs and symptoms of fifth disease are normally mild which include: fever, runny nose, headache, and rash. Later symptoms include seizures, and coma. This rash can appear on your face called “slapped cheek”, and body. This rash is the most recognizable feature of fifth disease. Some individuals may likely develop a second rash after a few days on their chest, back, buttocks, or arms and legs. The rash may be itchy, with different intensity, and usually disappear within seven to 10 days, but it may be recurrent for several weeks. As the rash begins to disappear it may look lacy. Other signs and symptoms may include painful or swollen joints known as polyarthropathy syndrome. This is more common in adults, specifically in women. The painful joints regularly occur in the hands, feet, or knees, with no additional symptoms. The joint pain typically lasts 1 to 3 weeks, however it may last for months or longer. This generally goes away without any long-term problems.

A person usually gets sick with fifth disease within 14 days after getting infected with parvovirus B19. The contagious period for fifth disease ends after individuals develop the rash. Therefore, it is regularly safe for individual to go back to work or school. However, individuals with weakened immune systems who develop fifth disease may be contagious for a longer period of time.

Fifth disease is spreads through respiratory secretions including saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus, when an individual infected with parvovirus B19 coughs or sneezes. Individuals who show the above symptoms should contact their health care provider for evaluation.

**Individuals do not need to be excluded unless they have a fever or other symptoms meeting illness exclusion criteria.**

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the school nurse at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) at 312-746-6015.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Principal School Nurse