
**MOOSE FACTORY ISLAND
DISTRICT SCHOOL AREA BOARD**

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE NO. 422	
Effective	
Revision Date	

FIFTH DISEASE

PURPOSE

The Moose Factory Island District School Area Board seeks to ensure that all staff members are provided with safe and healthy environments. This administrative procedure outlines the process for addressing incidents of fifth disease.

DEFINITIONS

Fifth Disease: Fifth disease is a mild infection most prevalent among young children. Public health officials do not classify this illness as a reportable disease and do not track its occurrence. Its incubation period may range from four to 20 days before a bright red or rosy rash appears on both cheeks for one to three days (“slapped cheek” appearance). It is during the incubation period that this virus is communicable. Students with fifth disease are permitted to attend school even with the rash because the contagious period for this disease occurs before the rash appears. There is no immunization against this disease and it is not treatable. In non-immune pregnant women, exposure to this disease may be harmful to the fetus. It should also be noted that those who are immuno-compromised because of HIV/AIDS or chemotherapy may be at risk for complications if exposed.

PROCEDURES**1. Principal’s/Supervisor’s Role**

1.1. Principals shall:

- a) as part of the school start-up and on a regular basis at staff meetings, inform all staff about fifth disease and its implications by using information provided by local health services and this Administrative Procedure;
- b) advise pregnant staff members or female staff who may be planning to start a family to discuss their immunity to the disease with their physicians; and
- c) emphasize cleanliness, such as, but not limited to, frequent hand washing, disinfecting toys and instructional materials, and cleaning desk and table tops as the best preventative action.

- 1.2. In the event that a confirmed case of fifth disease is reported, the following steps will be taken by the principal/supervisor to ensure appropriate accommodation for all staff.

- a) A parent has a duty to inform the principal/supervisor of a confirmed case of fifth disease.
- b) The principal/supervisor will distribute a notice [Form ADMIN 422-01 Template Letter to Staff] to inform staff that there is a confirmed case of fifth disease.
- c) The school will use a letter [Form ADMIN 422-02 Template Letter to Parents] to communicate the confirmed case of fifth disease to parents.
- d) Staff members who identify themselves as being at risk are to be offered the option of immediately leaving the school or work location. They will be encouraged to consult with their doctor.
- e) Staff members who are at risk will be informed that an alternate work location will be arranged, to commence the following work day and that they will be contacted later in the day to confirm the details.
- f) If the employee declines the offer of an alternate work location, she or he may remain at home, using sick leave credits.
- g) If the employee indicates she/he will accept the alternate work location, this should be immediately communicated to the superintendent or business administrator. The superintendent or business administrator will immediately offer reassignment to a location where there are no current cases of fifth disease. The reassignment is to begin the following day.
- h) All cases of fifth disease shall be reported to the: Moose Cree First Nation Public Health at 658-4220 or the Porcupine Health Unit at 336-2294.
- i) Employees with questions about fifth disease may contact the: Moose Cree First Nation Public Health or the Porcupine Health Unit.
- j) The superintendent/business administrator will monitor the reassignment of staff members to assist in facilitating a return to the home location as soon as it is appropriate—when the school has been free of a new confirmed case of fifth disease for 21 calendar days, unless otherwise indicated by a health care professional.

Questions about this procedure are to be directed to the Business Administrator.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Board References:

Form ADMIN 422-01 Fifth Disease: Template Letter to Staff
Form ADMIN 422-02 Fifth Disease: Template Letter to Parents