

The 5th disease - known as slapped cheek disease. (Erythema Infectiosum)

This is a viral infection caused by the Erythrovirus, also called Parvovirus.

Symptoms: Fever, bright red cheeks, may be one or both and this may extend over the nose and around the mouth. There may also be a red sparse rash on upper arms, legs and torso. The rash may last from days to weeks and can be itchy. In adults and older children, joint pain is the main symptom.

Transmission: This occurs by respiratory secretions – sneezing, coughing etc., and saliva. Individuals are most contagious before the onset of symptoms and are usually no longer infectious once the rash is visible.

Treatment: As this is a viral infection, antibiotics are not indicated. Treatment is symptomatic and supportive. Paracetamol or ibuprofen for the fever and calamine or some other topical itch relieving cream for the itchy rash.



"Slapped cheek" rash

ADAM.