

Erythema Infectiosum

Erythema Infectiosum is not a reportable condition unless outbreaks are observed

Erythema infectiosum (E.I.), commonly known as ‘Fifth Disease’, is caused by infection with Human Parvovirus B19. E.I. infections can occur sporadically or during community outbreaks. Up to fifty percent of susceptible household contacts develop secondary infection.

The transmissibility of the virus to adults is relatively low. In elementary school employees, annual seroconversion rates of approximately five percent have been reported, including during epidemic years. Even in household settings where level of contact is intense, attack rates are only around fifty percent among susceptible household members.