

A Note from the School Nurse



Pre-reading

Questions:

- What kind of information may be in this note?

Definitions:

- Ache – steady pain
- Antibiotic – medicine used to treat infection or disease
- Symptom – something that happens in the body that means there may be disease
- Sudden – happening quickly, without warning

Reading

Dear Parents,

2 We are seeing some skin rashes that resemble Fifth's Disease. This disease is caused by a
18 virus. It begins as a solid bright red area on the cheeks. This disease spreads as a pink rash to the
39 arms and legs. It sometimes spreads to the stomach and back. Some children may develop
54 symptoms such as low fever, tiredness, body aches, sore throat, headache or itching.

67 We are also seeing some cases of skin rashes with strep throat. Symptoms of strep throat
83 are usually a sudden fever, red sore throat, headache, swollen glands, and sometimes stomach pain.
98 However, some cases of strep throat show no signs of fever or a red throat.

113 Both Fifth's Disease and strep throat are **contagious**. They spread quickly from student to
127 student. Fifth's Disease usually is not contagious after the rash appears. No medication is needed
142 for Fifth's Disease. Strep throat is contagious until the person has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
159 We do not want to confuse symptoms of Fifth's Disease with strep throat.

172 If you or your child show any of the symptoms listed above, please contact your doctor or
189 clinic. In order to prevent illness from spreading to other children at school, please keep your child
206 home until he or she is no longer contagious. Also, remind your children to wash their hands often.
224 Hand-washing keeps unhealthy germs from entering the body.

232 Thank you,

234 School Nurse

Understanding

1. What are some symptoms of Fifth's Disease? _____

2. How are Fifth's Disease and strep throat alike? _____

3. How are Fifth's Disease and strep throat different? _____

4. What does **contagious** mean? _____

5. What should you do if you think your child has Fifth's Disease or strep throat? _____

6. How long is strep throat contagious? _____

7. What are symptoms of strep throat? _____

Writing

Option A: Write about your experience with Fifth's Disease, strep throat, or other illnesses.

Option B: What information did you learn about the two diseases described in the note?
