



Pregnancy and Fifth Disease

Fifth disease is a mild rash illness caused by parvovirus B19. This disease is usually not a problem for pregnant women and their babies.

About 50% of pregnant women are immune to parvovirus B19. So, these women and their babies are usually protected from getting the virus and fifth disease.

Pregnant women who are not immune usually do not have serious complications after they are exposed to others with fifth disease. They usually have only mild illness. Also, their babies usually do not have any problems. However, sometimes a baby will develop severe anemia, and the woman may have a miscarriage. But, this is not common. It happens in less than 5% of all pregnant women with parvovirus B19 infection and more commonly during the first half of pregnancy.

Pregnant women who are not immune and are not currently infected with parvovirus B19 may want to stay away from people with fifth disease.

Testing for Parvovirus B19 During Pregnancy

A blood test for parvovirus B19 can show if you

- are immune to this virus and have no recent sign of infection,
- are not immune and have never been infected, or
- have had a recent infection.

Monitoring Parvovirus B19 Infection During Pregnancy

If you are pregnant, you may want to talk with your doctor if you

- have been exposed to someone with fifth disease,
- have an illness that might be caused by parvovirus B19 infection, or
- were recently infected with parvovirus B19.

There is no single recommended way to monitor pregnant women with parvovirus B19 infection. Your doctor may recommend additional prenatal visits, blood tests, and ultrasounds.

Fifth Disease Outbreaks in the Workplace & Pregnancy


Pregnant women may choose to continue going to their workplace if there is an outbreak of fifth disease happening. However, if you are not immune to parvovirus B19 and are not currently infected, you may want to stay away from people with fifth disease while you are pregnant. Talk with your family, healthcare provider, and employer to decide what is best for you.

Healthcare providers who are pregnant should know about the potential risks to their baby and discuss this with their doctor. All healthcare providers and patients should follow strict infection control practices to prevent the parvovirus B19 from spreading.

Related Page

- [Fifth Disease \(fifth-disease.html\)](#)
- [Parvovirus B19 and Other Illnesses \(parvovirus-illnesses.html\)](#)

Images and logos on this website which are trademarked/copyrighted or used with permission of the trademark/copyright or logo holder are not in the public domain. These images and logos have been licensed for or used with permission in the materials provided on this website. The materials in the form presented on this website may be used without seeking further permission. Any other use of trademarked/copyrighted images or logos requires permission from the trademark/copyright holder...[more \(http://www.cdc.gov/Other/imagereuse.html\)](#)

 This graphic notice means that you are leaving an HHS Web site. For more information, please see the [Exit Notification and Disclaimer \(http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html\)](#) policy.

Page last reviewed: February 14, 2012

Page last reviewed: February 14, 2012

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Division of Viral Diseases](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Rd. Atlanta, GA
30333, USA
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: (888) 232-6348 - [Contact CDC-INFO](#)

