



Public Health Advisory
8/15/2024

Increase in Human Parvovirus B19 Activity in the United States

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Health Advisory on 8/13/24](#) to inform healthcare providers about the current increases in human parvovirus B19 (erythema infectiosum or fifth disease) activity in the United States (U.S.).

- **Transmission:** Parvovirus B19 is a highly transmissible respiratory virus, spread through respiratory droplets by both symptomatic and asymptomatic persons. Approximately, 50% of susceptible people are infected after household exposure, and 20–50% of susceptible students and staff are infected during school outbreaks.
- **Reporting:** Fifth disease is not a notifiable condition in the U.S. and is not a reportable condition in Clark County, NV.
- **Current Activity:** The CDC has received reports indicating increased parvovirus B19 activity, with increased test positivity rates in clinical specimens and pooled plasma from large commercial laboratories.
- **Antibody Prevalence:** The proportion of people with positive parvovirus B19 IgM results has increased among all ages from <3% during 2022–2024 to 10% in June 2024. The greatest increase was observed among children aged 5–9 years, from 15% during 2022–2024 to 40% in June 2024.
- **Plasma Donors:** Among plasma donors, the prevalence of pooled samples with parvovirus B19 DNA >10⁴ IU/mL increased from 1.5% in December 2023 to 19.9% in June 2024.

Recommendations for Providers:

✓ **Consider:**

- Parvovirus B19 in patients presenting with fever, rash, arthropathy (more common in adults), or unexplained anemia with a low reticulocyte count.
- The characteristic “slapped cheek” appearance, which is more common in children than adults.

✓ **Test:**

- Patients presenting with compatible signs and symptoms who are at higher risk of severe parvovirus B19 (pregnant, severely immunocompromised, chronic hemolytic blood disorders). IgM antibodies can be detected approximately 10 days after exposure and may persist for three month or longer.
- In certain cases, a PCR may provide additional information.

Test	Specimen	ARUP	CPL	LabCorp	Quest
Parvovirus B19 IgG, IgM	Serum	0065120	4595	163303	8946
Parvovirus B19 PCR	Serum or Plasma	0060043	5345	139326	34296

✓ **Treat:**

- Patients with supportive care.

✓ **Educate:**

- Persons with parvovirus B19 about potential transmission to persons at higher risk for severe parvovirus B19.
- On universal prevention strategies for preventing respiratory illness, including practicing good hand hygiene, consider mask-wearing while symptomatic, and ensuring proper ventilation while indoors for [cleaner air](#).

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Reference Links

The complete URLs for the shortened links are listed below to copy and paste into your browser.

CDC Health Advisory issued on 8/13/2024: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00514.asp>

Taking Steps for Cleaner Air for Respiratory Virus Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/air-quality.html>