



**CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
G E E L O N G

12th May, 2017

Dear Parents,

Re: Erythema Infectiosum (Slapped Cheek Disease)

It has come to our attention that Human Parvovirus known as Erythema Infectiosum (commonly called Slapped Cheek Disease) has been detected in Year 1B. This is a common childhood viral infection that can be very contagious.

Slapped Cheek Disease generally causes a mild illness with little or no fever but a striking redness of the cheeks (hence the common name). This is followed one to four days later by a lace-like rash on the trunk and limbs that fades but may recur over several weeks on exposure to heat. There is no specific treatment for the infection. Adults often have little rash, but may experience joint pains and swelling that are sometimes prolonged. Many cases experience no symptoms at all.

Human Services Victoria advises us that all children with Slapped Cheek Disease are **NOT** required to be excluded from School. The only people at risk from this virus are non-immune persons who are immunosuppressed (due to illness and/or treatment), have chronic haemolytic disorders, or are pregnant.

The virus can be passed from a pregnant mother to her unborn child. If you have concerns that you may have been in contact with Slapped Cheek Syndrome please consult your supervising doctor immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Nott
Head of Junior School

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