



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Molluscum Contagiosum has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County School Health Program at 904-253-1580.

What is Molluscum Contagiosum?

- A skin disease caused by a virus, somewhat similar to warts

What are the symptoms of Molluscum Contagiosum?

- Small, flesh-colored bumps on the skin
- often with a tiny, hard, indented, seed like center

How is Molluscum Contagiosum spread?

- Most often spread to other areas of the affected child's body rather than to other children
- Person-to-person through close contact
- Through sharing of inanimate objects such as towels

How is Molluscum Contagiosum treated?

- Cover lesions with clothing or bandage
- Cut and clean fingernails to prevent scratching and spread of virus
- Good, thorough hand washing
- Apply a cold compress to help with itching

How can Molluscum Contagiosum be prevented?

- Good, thorough hand washing
- Do not share towels
- Clean and sanitize surfaces

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff
- Must have a healthcare provider's note to return
- Must keep area covered while at school

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>