

Your child may have been exposed to:

Molluscum Contagiosum

Molluscum contagiosum is a common viral skin infection.

If you think your child has Molluscum Contagiosum:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare and School:

No. Cover bumps with clothing if skin-to-skin contact will occur.

Activities:

Avoid participating in swimming or contact sports if the bumps cannot be covered with clothing or a watertight bandage.

Symptoms

Your child may have bumps on the face, body, arms, or legs. The bumps are small, pale, shiny, and dome-shaped. The bump color may be flesh, white or pink. There may be a dimple on the top. The bumps are usually painless. Rarely, the bumps are itchy, red, swollen, and/or sore.

If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 7 weeks for symptoms to develop. However, it could be up to 6 months.

Spread

- By skin-to-skin contact with an infected person.
- By using contaminated towels, wash cloths, equipment.
- By touching or scratching your bumps and then touching another part of your body.

Contagious Period

Until the soft, white core comes out of the center of the bumps. After the bumps begin to heal, the risk of spreading the infection will be very low.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- ◆ If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed.

Prevention

- Avoid touching, picking, or scratching skin with bumps or blisters.
- Cover bumps with clothing or a bandage when others will come in contact with the skin. This will help prevent touching or scratching the bumps and help prevent spread.
- Change bandages daily or when soiled. Discard used bandages in trash.
- Wash hands after touching the bumps or handling bandages.

Contact sports or using shared equipment:

- Avoid sharing towels, wash cloths, uniforms, clothing, or other personal items.
- Avoid using sports or pool equipment that has not been disinfected.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Prepared by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD)