

ROSEOLA

Roseola is a common rash illness that usually occurs in children under 4 years of age. It is the most common cause of rash in children 6 months to 2 years of age.

CAUSE	Human herpesvirus 6.
SYMPTOMS	Usually a high fever that appears suddenly and generally lasts 3 to 7 days. As the fever breaks, a rash appears on the trunk and neck and may later spread to the rest of the body. The rash may last from several hours to several days. At this time, the child usually does not feel very sick. Infection also occurs without symptoms in many children. Seizures may occur in children with high fevers. Persons with weakened immune systems may have more severe disease and symptoms may last longer.
SPREAD	Most likely person-to-person through respiratory secretions.
INCUBATION	Estimated to be 9 to 10 days.
CONTAGIOUS PERIOD	Most likely during the fever and before the rash appears.
EXCLUSION	<u>Childcare</u> : Until fever is gone and other rash illnesses, especially measles, have been ruled out.
DIAGNOSIS	Recommend parents/guardians call their healthcare provider if their child has fever and rash.
TREATMENT	None.

PREVENTION/CONTROL

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water after touching anything contaminated with secretions from the nose and mouth and before preparing or eating food. **Thorough handwashing is the best way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.**
- Clean and sanitize mouthed toys, objects, and surfaces at least daily and when soiled. (See pgs 34-36.)

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