

HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Hand, foot and mouth disease is caused by the Coxsackie virus.

SYMPTOMS: There will be a raised rash on the palms, soles and area around the mouth. This rash will progress to blisters and then scabs. Painful swallowing due to sores in the mouth may also occur.

TRANSMISSION: Hand, foot and mouth disease is spread by direct contact with respiratory secretions or stool. It can be spread indirectly by contact with soiled articles. The virus may be shed in the stool for up to one month after symptoms resolve.

SCHOOL IMPLICATIONS:

- Hands should be frequently and thoroughly washed.
- Good hygiene can help prevent infection.
- Exclusion is recommended if the child has sores in the mouth and drools, there are weeping lesions on the hands or the child is too ill to participate in daily activities.