

# Molluscum Contagiosum

## Information for Parents and Caregivers

### What is M.Contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum is a skin rash. This rash is caused by the poxvirus. This rash has small clear or flesh-colored bumps. The bumps can spread from one part of the body to another and from person to person.

### Symptoms of M.Contagiosum

Most common signs and symptoms are rash which is often painless but can be itchy, sore, red and swollen. Rash is often on the upper body trunk, arm and face. Rash becomes infected when scratched.

### Is M.Contagiosum Contagious? What is its Duration?

Bumps appears 2-6 weeks after skin contact with an infected person. Bumps disappears 2-3 months and sometimes longer (6-12 months).

### Treatment & Symptom Management

To avoid skin infection, proper hand washing should be done. Also, do not share towels or clothing with those infected and do not scratch bumps or blisters on other peoples skin.

### Prevention

Molluscum Contagiosum clears up on its own without treatment. Other treatments includes cryotherapy, oral and topical therapy based on doctors prescription.

### When Can a Sick Child Return to Day Care, School, and other Social Settings?

There is no reason to keep a child with molluscum infection from school as it takes a long time for infection to fully resolve. Preventive measures should be instituted for kids and the school should be notified.



ALABAMA REGIONAL CENTER FOR INFECTION PREVENTION  
AND CONTROL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Alabama Department of Health, Communicable Disease Chart for Alabama's Schools and Childcare Facilities,  
<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/countyschoolsinfection2pg.11.17.15.pdf>

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