



# CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH NEWS

## NEWSWORTHY

### NATION/STATE

#### Increase in Syphilis Rates

You may have received some health alerts in the mail or by fax recently indicating the increasing number of syphilis rates among the general population. The state of Virginia experienced an increase of 160% in number of cases last year, compared to 2003. In 2006, Chickahominy saw six (6) early syphilis cases in our counties. Please report all positive lab tests (e.g. RGR, VDRL) as well as clinical findings for suspected early (primary, secondary), late, and congenital syphilis to your local health department so that we can work to reduce this alarming increase.

#### Rabies Awareness Week

March 10-15th, 2008

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In case you missed it, last week was Rabies Awareness Week. Last year, 730 positive cases of rabies in animals were reported to the Virginia Department of Health, the highest number since 1982. Forty-one (41) of these were cats and dogs. Call us for more rabies disease information.

#### Contact Us

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## SPOTLIGHT: FIFTH DISEASE (PARVO B19)

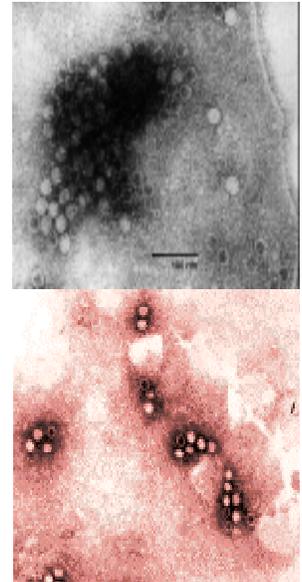
**H**uman parvovirus B19 (historically called Fifth Disease) infection is a relatively common childhood disease that causes the "slapped cheek rash" known as erythema infectiosum. This highly infectious virus is seen mainly in elementary and middle schools with clusters or outbreaks occurring in late winter and early spring, typically. Ages typically affected range between 5 and 15 years old.

The virus is found in respiratory secretions and is spread by direct contact. Signs and symptoms include low-grade fever, headache and nasal congestion for several days before a facial rash appears and can extend to the extremities. The period of

communicability begins with cold-like symptoms and ends as the rash surfaces. The incubation period can last up to 20 days.

There is no treatment for the infection other than symptomatic relief of fever, pain, and itching. Outbreak prevention recommendations include frequent hand-washing and prohibiting the sharing of food or utensils. Exclusion from school is not warranted once rash appears because they are no longer infectious. If the virus crosses the placenta of an infected pregnant woman, it could lead to hydrops fetalis, or fluid accumulation.

B19 is not reportable in Virginia by individual case basis, but by clusters/outbreaks.



Photos: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/CTVdb/ICTVdb/50000000.htm>

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

### What we are seeing in Chickahominy:

#### Feb '08 Reported Diseases

1 case of Campylobacteriosis in a 34-year old male (unknown source)

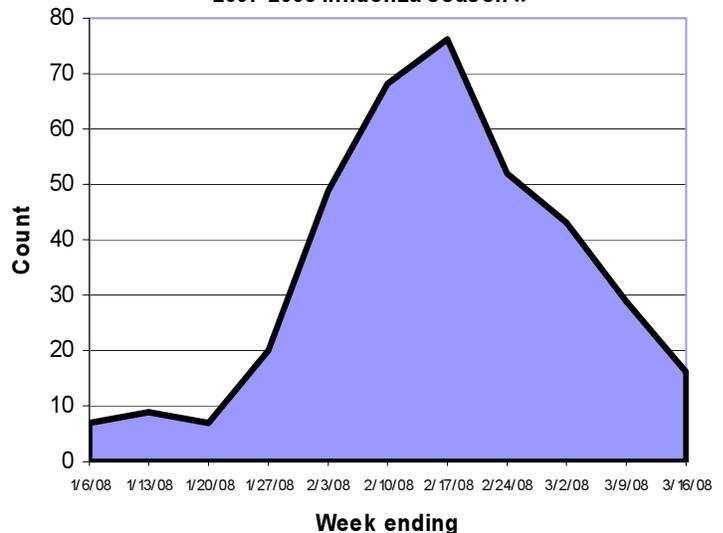
Outbreak (>5 cases) of Fifth disease in K-5 school children

3 cases of invasive MRSA

1 suspect case of Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive in a 16-month-old female

1 case of Chickenpox in a 5-year old male

### Chickahominy positive rapid influenza tests 2007-2008 Influenza season \*



\* Data from Bon Secours Hospitals