

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM PARENT FACT SHEET

PARENT/GUARDIAN

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.

Your child does not need to stay home but should cover bumps with clothing if skin-to-skin contact will occur. 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 and may be flesh colored, white, or pink. There may be a dimple on the top. The bumps are usually painless and are rarely itchy, red, swollen, 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, or 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 is very low.

Call your health care 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 dirty. Discard of used bandages in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching the bumps or handling bandages.
- Avoid sharing towels, wash cloths, uniforms, clothing, or other personal items.
- Avoid sharing sports or pool equipment.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-434-1690 & 775-887-2190 (after hours)

[Central Nevada Health District](#) (Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, Pershing Counties) 775-866-7535

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

Email: dpbhepi@health.nv.gov