

ROSEOLA

Roseola is a common rash illness of very young children. Most cases occur in children between the ages of 6 to 24 months. Infection is rare before 3 months or after 4 years of age. Roseola can occur throughout the year without a distinct seasonal pattern.

CAUSE: Human herpesvirus-6

SYMPTOMS: Sudden onset of fever that may reach 104° F or higher, lasting 3 to 5 days. Seizures sometimes occur as the temperature rises. On the third to fifth day, as the fever disappears, a rash appears. At this time, the child usually does not look very ill. The rash may appear as small, slightly bumpy, rose-pink spots on light skin. It begins on the chest and abdomen, usually lasting one to two days. Infection also occurs without symptoms in many children.

SPREAD: From person to person, but it is not known how. Transmission to infants most likely occurs via respiratory secretions of an asymptomatic caretaker or family member.

INCUBATION: It takes between 9 to 10 days after exposure for symptoms to begin.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: Unknown, probably communicable during the fever phase and before the rash appears. Immunity develops following the illness, although the virus may persist and subsequently reactivate.



A child with fever and rash should be excluded from child care until seen by a physician. The child may return when he/she is without fever.



1. Preventive measures are not necessary.
2. Treatment: There is no specific treatment.



For more information, you or your physician may call the Douglas County Health Department at 444-7241 or your local health department.