

HAND-FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Information Sheet

Definition

- A viral infection that causes mouth ulcers and tiny blisters on the hands and feet

Symptoms

- Small painful ulcers in the mouth, especially on tongue and sides of mouth (in all children)
- Small, thick-walled water blisters (like chickenpox) or red spots located on the palms, soles, and webs between the fingers and toes (70%)
- 1 to 5 water blisters per hand or foot
- Small blisters or red spots on the buttocks (30%)
- Low-grade fever less than 102° F (39° C)
- Mainly occurs in children age 6 months to 4 years

Cause

- [Coxsackie A-16 virus](#)
- Not related to animal disease

Return to School

- Can return to child care or school after the fever is gone (usually 2 to 3 days). The rash is not contagious.

See More Appropriate Topic (instead of this one) If

- Only has mouth ulcers, see [MOUTH ULCERS](#) (Exception: exposed to HFM)
- Only has a rash, see [RASH - WIDESPREAD AND CAUSE UNKNOWN](#)

Disclaimer: This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice. It is provided for educational purposes only. You assume full responsibility for how you choose to use this information. For more information, [click here](#).