A Note from the School Nurse

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What kind of information may be in this note?

Definitions:
- Ache – steady pain
- Antibiotic – medicine used to treat infection or disease
- Symptom – something that happens in the body that means there may be disease
- Sudden – happening quickly, without warning

Reading

Dear Parents,

We are seeing some skin rashes that resemble Fifth’s Disease. This disease is caused by a virus. It begins as a solid bright red area on the cheeks. This disease spreads as a pink rash to the arms and legs. It sometimes spreads to the stomach and back. Some children may develop symptoms such as low fever, tiredness, body aches, sore throat, headache or itching.

We are also seeing some cases of skin rashes with strep throat. Symptoms of strep throat are usually a sudden fever, red sore throat, headache, swollen glands, and sometimes stomach pain. However, some cases of strep throat show no signs of fever or a red throat.

Both Fifth’s Disease and strep throat are contagious. They spread quickly from student to student. Fifth’s Disease usually is not contagious after the rash appears. No medication is needed for Fifth’s Disease. Strep throat is contagious until the person has been on antibiotics for 24 hours. We do not want to confuse symptoms of Fifth’s Disease with strep throat.

If you or your child show any of the symptoms listed above, please contact your doctor or clinic. In order to prevent illness from spreading to other children at school, please keep your child home until he or she is no longer contagious. Also, remind your children to wash their hands often. Hand-washing keeps unhealthy germs from entering the body.

Thank you,

School Nurse

Level 6.0
Understanding
1. What are some symptoms of Fifth’s Disease? 
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
2. How are Fifth’s Disease and strep throat alike? 
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
3. How are Fifth’s Disease and strep throat different? 
   ______________________________________
4. What does contagious mean? 
   ______________________________________
5. What should you do if you think your child has Fifth’s Disease or strep throat? 
   ______________________________________
6. How long is strep throat contagious? 
   ______________________________________
7. What are symptoms of strep throat? 
   ______________________________________

Writing
Option A: Write about your experience with Fifth’s Disease, strep throat, or other illnesses.
Option B: What information did you learn about the two diseases described in the note?