



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

ROSEOLA

What is roseola?

Roseola is a common infection in infants and small children. It is caused by a virus. Most children will have a high fever and a rash.

How is roseola spread?

Roseola may be spread through the following ways:

- Person to person contact from airborne droplets.
- Person to person by improper hand washing after diaper changes or going to the bathroom.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- High fever with sudden onset that lasts 3-7 days.
- Irritability
- A rash appears when the fever goes away.

How is roseola diagnosed?

A doctor can diagnose roseola based on an exam of the rash. There may also be swollen lymph nodes on the back of the scalp.

What is the treatment for roseola?

There is no specific treatment. Use acetaminophen (Tylenol) to control the fever. Roseola is a common cause of seizures due to a high fever.

How can I prevent roseola?

The best prevention is good hand washing.

For more information on roseola:

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000968.htm