

# For Health Professionals

## Health Alerts

### Health Alert #9 - School Rash Illness - 03/06/2002

Rash illness among schoolchildren has been reported from fourteen states beginning in October, 2001. The rash characteristics have varied, but onset has been acute and the rash described as maculopapular, erythematous and pruritic. The Erie County Health Department is collecting reports of rash illness to try and better define an etiology.

#### Working Case Definition:

Among school-aged children, acute onset of maculopapular erythematous lesions - possibly in a reticulated pattern - on the face, neck, hands, arms, thighs, or trunk that are of varying duration and cannot be attributed to a defined etiology.

**If you have any patients that meet this case definition, please notify:**

Jack Schwartz, Epidemiologist  
Erie County Department of Health  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
Phone: (716) 858-7698  
Fax: (716) 858-7964  
E-mail: [schwartj@bflo.co.erie.ny.us](mailto:schwartj@bflo.co.erie.ny.us)

Please see the attached MMWR for additional details on the illness to date, or Visit the following link:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5108a1.htm>

Thank you,

Anthony J. Billittier IV, M.D., FACEP  
Commissioner of Health