

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

Skin coloured or pearly white bump/s with central dimple



WHAT IS IS?

A common skin infection caused by a virus that causes lesions (growths) that can appear on the body, either alone or in groups.

Although anyone may get it, it is most common in children between 1 and 10 years old.

It is contagious and you may *catch the infection* more than once in your lifetime if you're around someone who has it.

The sores may be itchy, sore, red, or swollen. The infection is usually mild and goes away, without any treatment, in six months to a year, but they can also take longer to resolve. They usually don't leave scars.



RISK FACTORS

Many children in daycare centres and schools may get molluscum.

Children with increased risk for getting molluscum:

Have eczema

Live in warm, humid climates with crowded living conditions

Have a weakened immune system (from HIV, cancer, malnutrition, diabetes)

PREVENTION

Washing hands frequently and not sharing items like towels and clothes.

COMPLICATIONS

Bacterial infection if lesions are scratched or broken.

Contact a healthcare provider.

HOW IT SPREADS

By touching someone who has it.

It may also spread when you touch items that have the virus on it, like towels, clothing, toys, or pool equipment used by someone who has molluscum.

It may spread from one area of the body to another.

Koebner phenomenon (or K bner phenomenon)
Development of lesions at sites of injury or trauma, like scratching and picking.



CAN MY CHILD GO TO SCHOOL OR DAYCARE?

YES! There is no reason to keep a child with molluscum home. They may also swim if they do not have open sores that could get infected.

TREATMENT

Observation: a watch and wait approach, or

2% salicylic acid applied to each individual lesion using a cotton bud, daily or twice daily until they disappear.

Refer to dermatologist for **liquid nitrogen** or treatment with **podophyllin or topical retinoids** if:
Extensive | On eyelid | Intolerable and not responding to treatment.

If extensive or large, test for HIV



If HIV-positive

Counsel and **refer for HAART initiation**

Reassure child/carer that bumps should resolve on their own after several years or with ART.