

Molluscum Contagiosum

Nature of Skin Infection

This wrestler has been determined to possibly have a skin infection called Molluscum Contagiosum. Molluscum Contagiosum is a highly infectious skin virus that appears as a pearly white or skin colored papule (“pimple-like” appearance). These papules are often umbilicated giving them a mushroom shaped appearance. These lesions may have gone undetected for a long period of time because they do look like pimples (which they are not), and they are not common in the general population. No matter how long someone has had them, they are still contagious. They are transmitted from wrestling by skin to skin or skin to mat contact. When present, Molluscum Contagiosum can live throughout the skin, not just at the site of the lesion. Because of this, it is not possible to cover the lesion and allow the individual to wrestle. We have calculated the number of wrestlers who could come in contact with one infected individual through skin to skin or skin to mat contact at greater than 200 wrestlers for our State Finals. This potential for large scale infection is not worth the risk.

Treatment of Skin Infection

Optimal treatment of Molluscum Contagiosum involves multiple visits to a physician with experience in treating this infection. Frequently this individual is a dermatologist. Treatment involves either curetting or freezing. Curetting involves skilled cutting of the papule with a special knife called a curette. Freezing is the application of a cold spray or liquid, which kills the virus and the surrounding tissue. Because Molluscum Contagiosum lives on the skin, even before the papule appears, one treatment is not effective at eradicating the virus. There are no topical (creams/ointments) to treat Molluscum Contagiosum.

