MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

What is it?
Molluscum contagiosum is a skin infection, with small lumps, caused by a virus.

How do I know if someone has it?
The infected person has small, pale, pearly raised spots that may occur anywhere on the body except the palms and soles. The number of spots varies from person to person. They often enlarge and may join together.

Is it infectious?
Yes, usually by direct contact with the lesions.

What is the incubation period?
Generally about a month but may be up to six months.

Is there any treatment?
The lesions usually go away after a few months but some may persist for up to two years. Your doctor can remove the contents of the lesions or freeze them. This may shorten the course of the infection. If the lesions become inflamed and red they may have a secondary bacterial infection and need local antibiotic treatment. Consult your doctor.

What should I do if someone has the infection?
Avoid direct contact with the lesions. Seek the advice of your GP.

Should the infected person stay away from school or work?
No, but direct contact with the lesions should be avoided to prevent spread. Cover with clothing or plasters during sporting activities.