Impetigo
Parent Resource Template

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DEFINITION

• Impetigo is a common skin infection in children caused by streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria.

SYMPTOMS

• Small, red pimples or fluid-filled blisters.
• Crusted, yellow scabs often found on the face but can be present anywhere on the body.

HOW IT IS SPREAD

• Contact with infected person or contaminated surfaces.
• Germs enter an opening on skin (e.g., cut, insect bite, or when the skin around the nose is damaged by runny nasal secretions and nose wiping that irritates the skin).

PREVENTION

• Cover lesions/sores loosely to allow for protection and airflow during healing.
• Avoid touching affected areas.
• Clean all cuts and scratches well.
• Keep fingernails clean and short.
• Do not share towels, bedding, or bath water with others.
• Launder contaminated items daily.
• Disinfect surfaces.
TREATMENT

- Wash and loosely cover the affected area.
- Oral or topical treatment as prescribed by healthcare provider.
- Good hand hygiene.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

- If diagnosed by healthcare provider, once treatment has begun or lesions are covered or are dried out.

CALL YOUR HEALTH PROVIDER

- Rash/Impetigo continues to spread or does not respond to treatments.
- The areas around the nostrils or lips become swollen or tender.

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American Academy of Pediatrics: Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools