



Impetigo

Impetigo is a bacterial skin infection. It usually occurs on the nose, arms, legs, or around the mouth.

If you think your child has impetigo:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Keep your child home from childcare and school if impetigo is confirmed by your health care provider. Your child will need to stay home until 24 hours after treatment is started **and** all sores on exposed skin are dried or kept covered.
- For more information, call HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Your child may have itchy, red sores on the skin that may fill with pus or clear fluid and break open. Next, the sores can produce a thick golden-yellow discharge that dries, crusts, and sticks to the skin. It usually begins at a break in the skin and can start near a cut or insect bite.

If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 10 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By touching the fluid from the sores.
- By touching contaminated objects (for example clothing, bedding, towels).

Contagious period

Until sores are dried and healed or the person has been treated for at least 24 hours.

Call your health care provider

If anyone in your home has symptoms of impetigo. Your doctor may prescribe a medication.

Prevention

- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with fluid from the sores. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with fluid from the sores.
- Do not share bedding, towels, washcloths, or clothing.
- Keep sores covered with a bandage. Remind children not to scratch the sores.

Impetigo

- Wear disposable medical gloves or use cotton-tipped swabs if applying ointment to sores. Dispose of any soiled tissues, bandages, and gloves carefully.

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