



## Impetigo Facts

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### IMPETIGO FACTS

#### **WHAT CAUSES IMPETIGO AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?**

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the skin, caused by streptococci or staphylococci. The infection is common in children and adults and can spread rapidly. The infection is spread by contact with the secretion (usually yellow to red drainage) or by coming in contact with infected objects i.e.: pencils, toys, and etc.

#### **WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF IMPETIGO?**

The infection usually appears near the mouth and nose, beginning as a thin blister full of a watery fluid. The blister increases in size, the secretion is marked by yellow to red, weeping, and/or crusted pustular lesions. The infection can spread rapidly and involve a large part of the face. The infection can also be found on the hands and other areas of the body if appropriate precautions are not taken.

#### **TREATMENT**

A health care provider will usually prescribe an appropriate topical or oral antibiotic. The area of infection needs to remain clean and dry, removal of exudate a couple of times a day needs to occur, by using warm soapy water. It is very important to not share washcloths, towels, or bed linens with others. Frequent hand washing is a must. **In cases of large or spreading lesions, the student may be asked to stay home until the condition is clear or no longer contagious.**

#### **EXCLUSION**

Cases are contagious until the skin sores are treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours or the crusting lesions are no longer present. Affected students will be excluded from school until 24 hours after beginning treatment. If the student is old enough to not touch the area after washing and covering it, he/she will not need to be excluded until the end of the day.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL:** After 24 hours of antibiotic treatment, topical or systemic.