

IMPETIGO FACT SHEET

What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the skin that is usually caused by group A streptococci.

What are the symptoms?

- Red bumps found anywhere on the skin, usually around the nose, mouth, hands and arms
- Thick, golden-yellow pus released from the red bumps that dries, crusts and sticks to the skin

How can it be prevented?

- Avoid contact with known cases of impetigo
- Wear gloves when applying antibiotic ointment and wash hands afterwards
- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water and teach children to do the same
- Wash toys, floors and other surfaces where children may play with a bleach solution made fresh daily of 1 tablespoon bleach and 1 gallon of water

How can it be spread?

- Person-to-person contact with infected skin or other items such as clothing, towels and bed linens.
- It can spread by scratching the blisters and then touching other body parts

How is it treated?

- Prescription antibiotic ointment or oral medication
- Infected areas should be washed with mild soap and running water
- An infected child should stay away from other children until 24 hours **after** the treatment has begun; the infected area should be covered
- Wash infected child's clothing, bedding and towels at least **once a day** and **never** share with others

