

# IMPETIGO FACT SHEET



Lenawee County  
**HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the skin that is usually caused by group A streptococci. It can cause a wide range of infections without showing any symptoms.

## 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?

- Avoiding contact with known cases of impetigo
- Wearing gloves when applying the antibiotic ointment and wash hands afterwards
- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm running water while teaching children 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.
- Can throughout your body by scratching the blisters and touching other body parts

## How it is treated?

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