

# IMPETIGO FACT SHEET

## What is impetigo?

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the skin that is usually caused by group A streptococci. It is most common in children ages 2 through 5 years old.

## What are the symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- 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 infected child's clothing, bedding and towels at least **once a day** and **never** share with others.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, 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 is it spread?

- By contact with infected skin
- By contact with other items that have touched infected skin, such as clothing, towels, and bed linens
- 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.

More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/diseases-public/impetigo.html>

This FACT SHEET is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a healthcare provider. For more information call your healthcare provider.

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