

Impetigo Guidelines

WHAT IS IMPETIGO?

Impetigo is a highly contagious skin infection that causes red sores most commonly on the face, but can appear anywhere on the body. Impetigo occurs when the skin becomes infected with bacteria, usually either *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Small red pimples
- Fluid-filled blisters
- Oozing of sores
- Crusty yellow scabs
- Itching

CONTAGIOUS TIME PERIOD:

Until lesions are treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours or crusting lesions resolve.

TIME FROM EXPOSURE TO SYMPTOMS:

4-10 days

SPREAD BY:

Direct contact with lesions or contaminated objects.

TREATMENT / SELF-CARE:

Typically diagnosed by assessment only. Antibiotics will be prescribed.

ACTION AT SCHOOL:

Exclude the child from school until after initiation of appropriate antibiotics treatment and lesions are covered or crusted.

CONSIDERATIONS AND PREVENTION MEASURES:

If you have an open wound, avoid swimming, hot tubs, or natural bodies of water. Keep fingernails clean and short. Good handwashing and hygiene. Proper disinfection of surfaces.

