



# Impetigo

## Parent Resource Template

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### DEFINITION

- Impetigo is a common skin infection in children caused by streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria.

### SYMPTOMS

- Small, red pimples or fluid-filled blisters.
- Crusted, yellow scabs often found on the face but can be present anywhere on the body.

### HOW IT IS SPREAD

- Contact with infected person or contaminated surfaces.
- Germs enter an opening on skin (e.g., cut, insect bite, or when the skin around the nose is damaged by runny nasal secretions and nose wiping that irritates the skin).

### PREVENTION

- Cover lesions/sores loosely to allow for protection and airflow during healing.
- Avoid touching affected areas.
- Clean all cuts and scratches well.
- Keep fingernails clean and short.
- Do not share towels, bedding, or bath water with others.
- Launder contaminated items daily.
- Disinfect surfaces.

## **TREATMENT**

- Wash and loosely cover the affected area.
- Oral or topical treatment as prescribed by healthcare provider.
- Good hand hygiene.

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

- If diagnosed by healthcare provider, once treatment has begun or lesions are covered or are dried out.

## **CALL YOUR HEALTH PROVIDER**

- Rash/Impetigo continues to spread or does not respond to treatments.
- The areas around the nostrils or lips become swollen or tender.

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American Academy of Pediatrics: Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools