

IMPETIGO



Fact Sheet

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria. This infection is common in children, but can occur at any age. The open lesions/sores of impetigo must be covered in the school setting until they are dry and no longer draining. Students may return after 24 hours of appropriate antibiotics.

SYMPTOMS:

- Skin lesions/sores – often around the mouth and nose, but can occur any place on the skin.
- Lesions may be itchy but not usually painful.
- The lesions may break and drain.
- Honey colored crusts occur around lesions/sores as a result of them draining and drying.

See your health care provider for symptoms that are severe or do not get better.

If you would like to learn more about this, and other communicable diseases, go to <http://www.cdc.gov>.

This fact sheet was created by the Health Services Department of Beaverton School District and has been approved by the Washington County Health Department, Disease Control and Prevention Program.

HOW TO PREVENT

GETTING AND SPREADING

IMPETIGO:

Impetigo is spread by *Direct contact*: skin-to-skin contact with infectious drainage from skin lesions AND *Indirect contact*: contact with articles/objects contaminated with the drainage.

- Cover lesions.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. (Alcohol sanitizer is NOT a replacement for washing hands.)
- Avoid touching lesions.
- No sharing of personal items especially when lesions are present.
- Do not participate in contact sports such as wrestling with open, draining lesions.

Treatment

Impetigo is a bacterial infection that requires diagnosis by a health care provider and treatment with antibiotics. Untreated impetigo can lead to serious illness.



One potentially serious, but rare, complication of impetigo is glomerulonephritis, a condition that produces kidney inflammation.

Also, older adults and people with diabetes or a compromised immune system are more likely to develop ecthyma, a deeper and more serious form of impetigo.