

Impetigo

Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **impetigo**. Impetigo is a common skin infection caused by bacteria.

Children with impetigo should stay home from school or childcare until they start antibiotic treatment.

Symptoms

Symptoms include small, red pimples or fluid-filled blisters. They appear on the face, hands, and feet, but can be anywhere on the body. Sores quickly rupture and ooze, then develop a yellow-brown crust after a few days.

Spread

Impetigo spreads through direct contact with fluid from the blisters or from contaminated surfaces. Bacteria can enter through broken skin, like cuts or sores.

Diagnosis and treatment

Contact your healthcare provider if your child has red pimples, fluid-filled blisters, or yellow scabs that will not go away. Generally, healthcare providers prescribe antibiotics to prevent spreading impetigo to others.

Prevention

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water.
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs and toys, often.
- Wash the child's clothing and towels daily. Do not share towels.
- Cut nails short to prevent damage from scratching.
- Cover sores with bandage or gauze.
- Keep children with impetigo home from school or childcare until they start antibiotics.

Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.