
Impetigo

Description: Impetigo is a bacterial skin infection caused by the staph (Staphylococcus aureus) or strep (group A Streptococcus) organism (or both).

Symptoms: Flat, yellow, crusty or moist patch on skin. Lesions are usually on exposed skin areas and around the mouth and nose.

How it is Spread: This infection can easily spread to other parts of the infected person's body or to other people by direct contact with sores or contaminated clothes. Dry, cracked skin serves as an area for growth of the strep and staph bacteria.

Incubation: 2-10 Days.

How Long Can a Person Pass the Infection To Others? The infection can be spread as long as the sores are draining.

Responsibility of Parents and Caregivers:

- Notify parents if child has been exposed.
- Child should be seen by a physician.

Control of Spread:

- Allow the child to return only after treatment with antibiotics for at least 24 hours, and all lesions (sores) are dry.
- Infected area should be cleaned with mild soap and running water.
- Wear gloves while applying antibiotic ointment as prescribed by the physician and wash your hands afterwards. (An oral antibiotic may be prescribed.)
- Wash the infected child's clothes, linen and towels at least once a day and never share them with other children.
- Emphasize good hand washing procedures for both the caregiver and children.
- Make sure policies on cleaning and sanitizing toys are followed.

Treatment: Follow physician recommendations which may include antibiotic ointment or antibiotic by mouth or injection. Refer the child back to his physician if the condition does not improve.