



Impetigo

Fact sheet

What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a common skin infection that is caused by streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria.

What are the signs and symptoms?

What are the signs and symptoms of impetigo? Small red pimples or fluid-filled blisters with crusty, honey-colored scabs usually indicate impetigo. It is most often found on the face, but may be anywhere on the body.

How is it spread?

Impetigo is spread from contact with the sores of an infected person or from contaminated surfaces. The germs enter an opening on the skin (cut, insect bite, etc) and causes the wound to ooze. This leads to the honey-colored, crusted sores. Impetigo may occur year round.

How do you keep it from spreading?

People may be colonized with the bacteria. This means that the bacteria normally live on their skin. Therefore, a mild injury may result in infection. Keep wounds clean and covered by a loose bandage. Practice good hand washing technique. Clean and sanitize surfaces. Keep fingernails clipped and clean to avoid spread. Wash contaminated clothing articles daily.

Impetigo in schools:

In the event of an outbreak (more than one infected child in a group), consult with the local health department. The problem could involve antibiotic-resistant staphylococcal bacterial such as MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)



Treatment

Impetigo is treated with topical, oral or other systemic antibiotics. Consult with a health professional for a treatment plan.

Exclusions

Yes. A child should be excluded at the end of the day. The child may return once oral or topical antibiotics has been started. Lesions should be kept covered until they are dry. Staff members must be able to care for the child without compromising the health and safety of other children in the group.

