

Impetigo

What is impetigo?

- A skin infection that causes a rash which often occurs on the face but can occur anywhere on the body.
- Anyone can get impetigo, but the infection is most common in young children 2 through 5 years old.
- It is caused by streptococcal and staphylococcal bacteria.

What are the symptoms?

- Red, round bumps that develop into sores that break open and leak a clear fluid or pus.
- Sores are sometimes itchy
- Sometimes a “honey-colored” scab may form over the sore.
- The sores heal without leaving a scar.

How is it spread?

- Impetigo is spread to others when someone touches those sores or comes into contact with fluid from the sores.
- It usually takes up to 10 days for the rash to appear after an exposure.
- It commonly spreads in schools and child care centers.
- The bacteria can also spread from objects such as bedding and toys

Treatment for impetigo:

- Antibiotic treatment can be one that is rubbed onto the sores (topical antibiotics) or ones that



Image: dermnetz.org

are taken by mouth (oral antibiotics).

Prevention:

- People can get it more than once.
- Avoid scratching or touching the sores and scabs.
- Keep sores covered with a bandage.
- Regularly wash hands, and wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with fluid from the sores.
- Use a clean towel or fresh paper towel to dry the body or hands;
- Do not share towels, clothing, and other personal items with someone who has impetigo.
- Cleanliness and prompt attention to minor wounds will help prevent Impetigo.
- Wash contaminated clothes, linens, and towels.

- Clean surfaces with antibacterial products.

Control Measures:

- Report the infection to the facility director or school nurse.
- EXCLUDE anyone with impetigo until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun.
- Impetigo can spread in athletic settings. Skin checks are important in prevention of this illness and are recommended as part of the weigh-in protocols for contact sports.
- Athletes should be held out of participating until treatments have been received or lesions have completely healed.



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Questions?

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