

Impetigo

Impetigo is a contagious skin infection often occurring on the nose, arms, legs, or around the mouth. This infection is common in young children. Complications such as heart and/or kidney disease may develop if children do not receive proper treatment.

CAUSE: *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus* bacteria

SYMPTOMS: Sores that form an oozing, sticky yellow crust; itching.

TRANSMISSION: Most often by contact with the sores, sometimes through secretions from the nose and throat.

INCUBATION: It usually takes 1 to 10 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms develop.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: Until sores are healed, or person has been treated with antibiotics for at least a full 24 hours.



Until the child has been treated with antibiotics for 24 hours and no longer has discharge from sores.

Prevention & Control

1. Wash hands carefully with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds after contact with sores. If hand sanitizers are used, they may be used only after thorough hand washing.
2. When possible, cover sores with a barrier to prevent spread.
3. **Diagnosis and Treatment:** If you suspect impetigo, contact your physician for diagnosis and treatment. Impetigo often can be treated with topical antibiotics (applied directly to the skin) when only a few lesions are present. When there are more than a few sores, your physician may prescribe oral antibiotics.

For more information, you or your physician may call the Central District Health Department at 385-5175, or call your local health department.