



IMPETIGO

What is impetigo?

- It is a highly contagious skin infection, caused by bacteria.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Open sores draining pus-like fluid on the skin
- Typically on the face, but can be anywhere on the body

How is it spread?

- By direct contact with discharge from the lesions
- Contagious as long as the sores are draining
- No longer contagious after 24-48 hours of antibiotic treatment

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation
- Treatment is topical antibiotics and possibly band aid covering

How can it be prevented?

- Thorough hand washing with soap and water
- Wash sores with soap and water
- Do not touch sores
- Cover affected area with dressing or bandage
- Avoid non-chlorinated pools and hot tubs

Should the sick child be isolated?

- No

When can the child return to day care or school?

- After 24 hours on oral medication, antibiotic ointment with band-aid covering

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.