



LAKE LAND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272

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Communicable Disease Fact Sheet

IMPETIGO

What is Impetigo?

- ◆ A skin infection caused by a staphylococcal bacteria or less commonly a streptococcal bacteria.
- ◆ Impetigo is highly contagious.

Symptoms:

- ◆ Impetigo often occurs at the site of a pre-existing skin lesion i.e. a cold sore, insect bite but may occur out of the blue.
- ◆ Usually occurs around the mouth or nose as a small red itchy spot, and then becomes a blister containing yellow substance.
- ◆ The blisters will weep a clear honey-colored fluid and become crusty with itching.
- ◆ The sores may spread quickly.

Treatment:

- ◆ In mild cases home treatment may be adequate, but oral antibiotics are the preferred treatment.
- ◆ Four times daily:
 - Crusts need to be removed by soaking with a soft clean cloth, then gently wiping off the crusts.
 - Apply an antibiotic ointment (i.e. Polysporin, Neosporin) generously to the area.
- ◆ Use separate towels and washcloths for the infected person.

Prevention:

- ◆ Good handwashing.
- ◆ Watch your child for any early signs of impetigo.
- ◆ If your child has any insect bites or other skin lesions keep their fingernails cut short to prevent scratching which could introduce the bacteria.

Exclusion from school:

- ◆ The child may return to school after 24-48 hours of treatment depending on the recommendation of your health care provider.

More information:

- ◆ Contact your school nurse at your child's school, or at the School District Office, 687-0431.
- ◆ Contact your health care provider.
- ◆ Contact Panhandle Health District at 667-3481.