

Your child may have been exposed to:

Impetigo

Impetigo is a bacterial skin infection. It usually occurs on the nose, arms, legs, or around the mouth.

If you think your child has **impetigo**, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Keep your child home from childcare and school if impetigo is confirmed by your health care provider. Your child will need to stay home until 24 hours after treatment is started and the sores are drying.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Symptoms

Your child may have sores on the skin. The sores can produce a thick golden-yellow discharge that dries, crusts, and sticks to the skin. It usually begins at a break in the skin and can start near a cut or insect bite.

If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 10 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By touching the fluid from the sores.
- By touching contaminated objects (for example clothing, bedding, towels).

Contagious period

Until sores are healed or the person has been treated for at least 24 hours.

Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms of impetigo. Your doctor may prescribe a medication.

Prevention

- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with fluid from the sores. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with fluid from the sores. Use a product that kills germs.
- Do not share bedding, towels, washcloths, or clothing.
- Keep sores covered with a bandage. Remind children not to scratch the sores.
- Wear disposable medical gloves or use cotton-tipped swabs if applying ointment to sores. Dispose of any soiled tissues, bandages, and gloves carefully.