



IMPETIGO POLICY

Impetigo

Impetigo is a superficial bacterial infection of the top layer of skin characterised by blisters that become golden and crusted. Blisters usually occur on the limb extremities or on the face. The clear fluid from the blisters is highly infectious and infects adjacent skin areas; large extended blisters up to 10 cm in diameter may result. The blisters quickly become crusted. The incubation period is usually 1-4 days, depending on the infecting organism. Patients are infectious until the lesions are healed, or until 24 hours after the start of effective treatment <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/impetigo/>

Policy Statement

Dulwich College will take appropriate measures to avoid spread of the infection. Impetigo is very infectious and is spread by direct contact or by touching objects that have been in contact with blister fluid.

Procedure

If impetigo is identified or suspected by any member of the Health Centre staff the College will immediately contact the pupil's parents or guardian. If the pupil is a day boy his parents will be asked to collect him from school and take him to his GP for treatment. If impetigo is identified or suspected in a pupil who is a boarder that pupil must immediately be isolated until he has seen the School Medical Officer and received treatment as appropriate.

Following commencement of treatment any pupil must be isolated from the College community for a minimum period of 48 hours following the commencement of antibiotic treatment or until the lesions are crusted and healed if longer (Health Protection Agency, 2010, updated 2017

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/789369/Exclusion_table.pdf

If the pupil is a boarder he must stay at the Medical Centre during the school day but may return to the boarding house in the evening. Before returning to the boarding house the boy must be informed by the

Medical Centre staff of the precautions to be taken to avoid cross infection.