

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

- **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, possibly near a cut or insect bite. If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 10 days for symptoms to start.
- **Spread:** Impetigo is spread by touching the fluid from the sores.
- **Contagious Period:** If impetigo is confirmed by your healthcare provider, your child must stay home until 24 hours of antibiotic treatment has been completed or until the sores are healed. Sores on exposed skin should be covered with an airtight dressing.
- **Prevention:** Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with fluid from the sores. Your child may need help with handwashing. Use a product that kills bacteria to clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with fluid from the sores. **DO NOT** share towels, washcloths or clothing. Keep sores covered with a bandage. Remind children not to scratch sores.

Source- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents or Guardians; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention)