

## Parent Home Care Information Impetigo

Your child has a rash that may be impetigo.

**The instructions below may help you handle this health problem at home.**

- Impetigo is a skin infection caused by bacteria that often infects sores, insect bites and other skin rashes.
- If your child has one or two small impetigo sores, they can be treated with a triple antibiotic ointment or cream that you can buy without a prescription. Ask your pharmacist to help you choose one that is right for your child. Read and follow the directions on the medicine label.
- Before you put the medicine on, remove the crusts (if there are crusts) by soaking all sores with warm water for 5 minutes. After soaking, wash the sores with a washcloth, warm water and an antibacterial soap such as Dial™ or Safeguard™.
- If your child has impetigo in the nose, it may be necessary to put a very small amount of ointment on a cotton swab and apply it to the sores in the nose. Your child will also need to be seen by a doctor or nurse practitioner.
- **Wash your hands** before and after touching any sores. Impetigo can be spread from one person to another.
- Keep your child's towel and washcloth separate from those of other family members.
- Wash washcloths, towels, bedding and clothing with hot water. Dry with high heat or in the sun.
- Keep your child's fingernails clean and cut short to keep him or her from scratching and spreading the rash.
- Cover the sores if they are oozing or draining.
- Your child will need to stay home from school if the sores cannot be covered.
- Your child can return to school or childcare 48 hours after antibiotic treatment is started and the rash starts to heal.
- Take your child to a doctor or nurse practitioner if:
  - The rash does not get better in 1-2 days after using antibiotic ointment
  - The sores become red, swollen or hurt
  - Your child starts to feel sick
  - Your child's temperature is 101°F or higher by mouth or 100°F or higher under the arm

