

Exclusion from School



- Child is excluded for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started. The affected area should be covered while at school until sores are free of scabs, crusts, or drainage.

- If the area can not be covered, or compromises the health and safety of others, the child may be excluded until the area is healed.



Precautions & Prevention of Spread

1. Early diagnosis and treatment are very important.
2. Avoid scratching.
3. Keep fingernails short.
4. If necessary, wear mittens to prevent injury from scratching or touching sores.
5. Do not share towels, washcloths, bed linen, or clothing.
6. Wash towels, washcloths, bed linen, and clothes of infected person in hot water, and dry in hot dryer.
7. Toys should be washed in dishwashing detergent and rinsed in a solution of one part bleach to ten parts water.



SAGINAW COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

protecting and promoting the public's health since 1928

Service Location
Room 312 - 3rd Floor
1600 N. Michigan
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-758-3887

www.saginawpublichealth.org

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or handicap.



IMPETIGO



Information
Brochure



Impetigo

A common bacterial skin infection that can be caused by either Group Strep A or Staph. Impetigo can affect all age groups, but is most common in infants and children.

Mode of Spread

- Easily spread by fingers, towels, washcloths, bedding, and clothing that has been in contact with the drainage from sores.

- 20-30% of the population are carriers of the impetigo germs in their nose and are capable of infecting themselves.

- Impetigo germs can cause infection in healthy skin by entering through a break in the skin caused by an insect bite or injury.



IMPETIGO

Incubation Period

Can be as short as a few days and as long as several weeks. It usually takes 4-10 days for impetigo to appear.

Symptoms

1. Starts out as small fluid filled blisters which appear in clusters on the skin.
2. The blister then fills with pus and is red around the bottom edge.
3. When the blister breaks, the fluid and pus inside dry to form hard, yellow-crusts sores. The crust (scab) is easily removed, leaving a smooth, red, weeping surface which becomes encrusted again.
4. The fluid and pus inside the blisters are very contagious. When they break and the fluid and pus come in contact with the skin, more lesions appear.
5. Lesions may be itchy.

Treatment

Impetigo is usually treated with a topical antibiotic ointment prescribed by the doctor. Impetigo may also be treated with over the counter Bacitracin or Neosporin ointment four times a day for minor infections.



1. Wash your hands before applying treatment.
2. Wash lesions with soap and water to remove crusts.
3. Pat dry
4. Apply antibacterial ointment.
5. Put the towel and washcloth in the laundry. Use a clean towel and wash cloth for each treatment.
6. Wash your hands again to prevent spread of the disease.