

IMPETIGO FACT SHEET

Parents are kindly requested to keep children off school until treatment has started. Sores must be completely covered with a watertight dressing.

What is impetigo?

Impetigo is a common and highly contagious skin infection that causes sores and blisters.

What are the symptoms of impetigo?

There are two types of impetigo:

- Non-bullous impetigo, which typically affects the skin around the nose and mouth, causing sores to develop that quickly burst and leave a yellow-brown crust
- Bullous impetigo, which typically affects the central part of the body between the waist and neck, causing fluid-filled blisters to develop and burst after a few days to leave a yellow crust

Is it serious?

It's not usually serious and often improves within a week of antibiotic treatment.

How does impetigo spread?

Impetigo can spread to anyone who comes into contact with infected skin or other items (such as clothing, towels, and bed linens) that have been touched by infected skin. As impetigo may itch, kids can spread the infection by scratching it and then touching other parts of their body or other people.

Good hygiene including proper hand washing can help prevent the spread of the virus.

How is impetigo treated?

Impetigo can be effectively treated with antibiotics, which may be prescribed in the form of a cream (topical antibiotics) or as tablets (oral antibiotics).

If your symptoms don't improve after ten days, or suddenly worsen, contact a doctor for advice.