

FACT SHEET  
**IMPETIGO**

(caused by Streptococcus and/or Staphylococcus)

<b><i>What is Impetigo?</i></b>	Impetigo is caused by bacteria, which affect the upper layer of skin and results in infectious skin lesions (sores).
<b><i>How is it spread?</i></b>	It is spread from person-to-person by direct or indirect contact with fluid from the sores.
<b><i>What is the incubation period?</i></b>	Symptoms may appear 1-10 days after initial contact.
<b><i>What are the early signs?</i></b>	Impetigo appears as blister-like sores with characteristic honey-colored and red scabs; they may contain clear or pus-like fluid that rapidly crusts over. The sores are commonly found on the face (around the mouth/nose), and on the fingers.
<b><i>What about contact?</i></b>	Children who come into contact with Impetigo should be excluded from school only if signs of the infection appear.
<b><i>How long is the person contagious?</i></b>	Impetigo is contagious for as long as the sores continue to drain, or until antibiotic treatment is started.
<b><i>When is it OK to return to school?</i></b>	Children may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started (if there is no fever).
<b><i>Other important information</i></b>	Children should practice good handwashing, and fingernails should be kept short and clean. The law requires the school to send an ill child home to avoid spreading the illness to other children.

This fact sheet is not intended to replace the advice of your physician. Parents should contact their healthcare provider if they have concerns regarding their child's health. If you have general questions, you may contact a Kalamazoo County nurse at 373-5264 or 373-5267.

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