



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

FACT SHEET IMPETIGO

(caused by *Streptococcus* and/or *Staphylococcus*)

<i>What is Impetigo?</i>	Impetigo is an infection of the upper layer of skin. It's caused by bacteria and results in infectious skin lesions (sores).
<i>How is it spread?</i>	It is spread from person-to-person by direct or indirect contact with fluid from the sores.
<i>What is the incubation period?</i>	Symptoms may appear 1-10 days after initial contact.
<i>What are the early signs?</i>	Impetigo appears as blister-like sores with 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.
<i>What about contacts?</i>	Children who come into contact with Impetigo should be excluded from school/childcare only if signs of the infection appear.
<i>How long is the person contagious?</i>	Impetigo is contagious for as long as the sores are present, or until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started. Children should be excluded until treatment is started, though if illness is suspected during the day the child need not be sent home until the end of the day.
<i>When is it OK to return to school/daycare?</i>	Children may return to school/childcare the day after antibiotic treatment is started (if there is no fever). Sores need to be covered.
<i>Other important information</i>	Children should practice good handwashing, and fingernails should be kept short and clean. The law requires an ill child be sent home from group care 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 373-5022 or 373-5267.

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