



NOTIFICATION OF IMPETIGO
(A bacterial skin infection)

Dear Parents:

A case of impetigo has been diagnosed in your child's classroom.

Incubation period: (the time between exposure to the disease and the appearance of symptoms)
Varies, from 1 – 10 days.

Contagious period: (when the disease can be transmitted to another person)
As long as the blisters continue to drain or until the infected child has been treated with an antibiotic for at least a full 24 – 48 hours and is fever free.

Signs and symptoms:
Impetigo looks like a small, grape-like patch of tiny blisters. The blisters break and the skin becomes red and moist. A yellow or brown crust forms over the broken blisters. He blisters may be very itchy and are usually found on the face around the nose and mouth, but it can spread to other parts of the body. Encourage your child not to scratch or rub the blisters because this can lead to a secondary infection.

Treatment:
This disease is usually treated with an antibiotic cream/ointment applied to the blisters. You may receive an oral antibiotic.

How this disease is spread:
The bacteria that cause impetigo are spread person-to-person through contact with the fluid from the draining blister or by contact with a person who has the bacteria in nasal discharges, but has not symptoms.

Control of cases:
An infected child should be excluded from school for 24 – 48 hours **after** beginning antibiotic treatment. **Teach the importance of proper handwashing.** Wash hands using soap, rubbing together for at least 15 seconds and rinsing under running water. Clean and sanitize any item that may have been in contact with the child, such as toys, sheets, etc. Cover all blisters (sores) to prevent spread of the disease to other parts of the child's body as well as preventing the spread of disease to other children.

General preventive measures:
The most effective method of prevention is to wash hands thoroughly and often. A doctor should evaluate any suspected disease as soon as possible.