

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

IMPETIGO

Accompanying: Hand Washing Fact Sheet

What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a common bacterial skin infection that is very contagious that occurs most frequently in children. It causes red sores that can break open, ooze fluid, and develop a yellow-brown crust. These sores can occur anywhere on the body but most often appear around the mouth and nose.

What are the signs and symptoms of an Impetigo infection?

The infection begins as small red pimples or fluid-filled blisters. The blisters then rupture and form a yellow crust.

How are Impetigo infections spread?

Impetigo is spread by direct contact with the moist discharges of the lesions.

What is the incubation period of Impetigo and how long is it contagious?

The incubation period varies, but is generally between seven to ten days after bacteria attach to the skin. All types are contagious until skin sores are treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours or the crusting lesions are no longer present.

What should I do if I think I have an Impetigo infection?

Persons with these symptoms should see their physician. Treatment consists of cleansing the lesions with soap and water and then wiping the surrounding skin with an antiseptic. Care should be taken to avoid spreading the infection and the child should **NOT** be sent to school or daycare. The lesions should be kept dry and open to air as much as possible. Local applications of an antibiotic ointment may clear up the lesions; however, administration of oral antibiotics usually is recommended for severe cases. A child can usually return to school in 1-3 days after treatment.

How can I prevent myself and others from getting an Impetigo infection?

This skin infection can be prevented through careful hygiene, thoroughly washing hands with soap and water, as described in the accompanying fact sheet, and cleansing the wound.

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Orange County Epidemiology Program at 407-858-1420. You may also visit the Epidemiology Program website, <http://orange.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/epidemiology/index.html>, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/groupAstrep/index.html> or the OCHD School Health website at <http://orange.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/school-health/index.html> for additional information.

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