

## IMPETIGO

Impetigo is a contagious skin infection often occurring on the nose, arms, or legs or around the mouth. This infection is common in young children.

### CAUSE

*Streptococcus* and/or *Staphylococcus* bacteria, including Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

### SYMPTOMS

Typically begins at a break in the skin (e.g., insect bite, cut). Sores form on the skin and produce a thick golden-yellow discharge that dries, crusts, and sticks to the skin. Rarely, problems such as kidney disease or cellulitis (skin infection) may develop if children do not receive proper treatment.

### SPREAD

Person-to-person through touching the fluid from the sores. Rarely, through touching contaminated objects.

### INCUBATION (time from exposure to onset of symptoms)

Usually 1 to 10 days

### CONTAGIOUS PERIOD

Until sores are healed or the person has been treated with antibiotics for 24 hours.

### EXCLUSION

Child care and School: If impetigo is confirmed by a healthcare provider, until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated and sores are drying or improving.

### DIAGNOSIS

Recommend parents/guardians call their healthcare provider if their child has Impetigo.

### TREATMENT

Impetigo can be treated with topical antibiotics (applied directly to the skin) when only a few sores are present. Oral or injectable antibiotics may also be prescribed.

### PREVENTION/CONTROL

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water after contact with sores.
- Wear disposable medical gloves if applying ointment to sores or use cotton-tipped swabs.
- Cover sores whenever possible to prevent spread. Discourage children from scratching infected areas.
- DO NOT share towels, washcloths, or clothing.
- Clean and sanitize mouthed toys, objects, and surfaces at least daily and when soiled.

For more information please contact Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740 and visit our website at <http://cchealth.org/impetigo/>