

Facts about Impetigo

Impetigo is a skin infection that is common in children.

It is caused by bacteria that get into scrapes or insect bites. The infection is most common in the summer.

Some people think children get impetigo because they don't wash properly. This is not true.

A child with impetigo has a skin rash that looks like a group of blisters or red bumps. There may be fluid oozing out of the blisters or they may be covered with a golden yellow crust. The rash is usually around the nose, mouth or parts of the skin that are not covered by clothes.

A doctor can tell if a child has impetigo. To find out which germ is causing the infection, the doctor needs to take a sample or swab from the rash. The infection can be treated with antibiotic cream or pill.

How is Impetigo Spread?

Impetigo is spread by direct contact with a sore or when someone touches the rash and then touches another person. To stop the spread of impetigo it is important to wash hands after touching the rash. Antibiotics can also stop the spread of impetigo.



What to Do at Home

- Watch your child for signs of impetigo if another child has it.
- Call your doctor, if you think your child has impetigo.
- Make sure everyone in the house washes their hands carefully with soap and running water after touching infected skin. Do not share facecloths or towels.
- It is important for the child to take all the antibiotic even after the rash has gone away.



If your child's health care provider has prescribed an antibiotic, your child should use the antibiotic for at least one full day (24 hours) before returning to the child care centre or school.

