

Impetigo

Description: Impetigo is a common but highly contagious skin infection that causes sores and blisters.



Symptoms:

There are two types of Impetigo: Non-bullous (the most common type) and Bullous Impetigo. Symptoms are similar and will develop around 4 -10 days after initial exposure to the bacteria.

- Red sores appear usually around the nose and mouth but other parts of the face and limbs can be affected
 - The sores quickly burst leaving behind a thick golden crust
 - Once the crust has dried, they leave a red mark that usually fades between a few days to a few weeks. They do not usually cause scarring.
- For Bullous impetigo
- Bullous Impetigo normally starts with the appearance of fluid filled blisters on the central parts of the body between the waist and neck, or on the arms and legs
 - The blisters may quickly spread, before bursting after several days leaving a yellow crust behind

Causes:

Impetigo occurs when the skin become infected with bacteria and can infect the skin in two ways:

- Through broken skin such as cuts, insect bites or other injuries
- Through skin damaged by another underlying condition such as head lice, scabies or eczema

Treating impetigo

Impetigo usually gets better without treatment in about two to three weeks. Treatment is sometimes recommended and this will take the form of antibiotic creams or antibiotic tablets.

How is it spread?

- Direct physical contact where the bacteria is passed on by touch
- Sharing of infected towels, face clothes, sheets etc.

How long is it infectious?

Impetigo can be unintentionally spread, as symptoms do not appear for 4-10 days. It remains contagious for 48 hrs after the sores have dried and healed.

How long should my child stay home from school?

Your child must stay away from school for at least 48hrs after the blisters have dried and healed.