



Impetigo

Your child may have been exposed to this disease

If your child has symptoms, please contact your child's healthcare provider.

If my child has this disease, when can he or she return to school or child care?

Children with impetigo may NOT attend school or child care if they have fever or are unusually tired, or if they have open sores on their hands. Children may attend school with sores on other parts of their body as long as the sores are covered with a bandage.

Impetigo is an illness caused by the same bacteria that also causes strep throat and scarlet fever, called *Group A Streptococcus*.

It causes:

- Red sores on the face, especially around a child's nose and mouth, and on the hands and feet. The sores burst and develop yellow crusts.
- Sometimes fever, headache, tiredness, and lack of appetite

Most people only have skin sores, but rarely the bacteria can travel to other parts of the body and create infections in the eyes, lungs, or brain.

Impetigo can be a serious illness for newborns and people with chronic illnesses. It occurs most often in crowded living areas, summer camps, in warm

What can I do now?

Watch your child for symptoms of this disease. Call your child's doctor or health care provider if your child is sick. Your child may be prescribed antibiotics, either in a topical cream or pill form.

If your child gets sick, prevent others from getting ill by:

- Washing his or her hands well and often.
- Covering any open sores with a bandage.
- Not sharing bath towels with a sick person.
- Washing sheets, pillowcases, and towels daily while a person is sick.

weather, and while playing contact sports.

How is impetigo spread?

- By touching the fluid from an open sore
- By sharing a bath towel or products with a person who has impetigo
- Rarely from coughing and sneezing

This illness is spread most often when a person has open sores that are draining.