



Sequatchie Valley Planning & Development Agency
Sequatchie Valley Head Start

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

_____ A child in our program has impetigo.

_____ Your child may have impetigo.

Information about impetigo:

What is it? Impetigo is a skin infection common in young children. It is seen mostly on the face and around the mouth, but can occur any place on the skin. In impetigo infections, the skin becomes red and may ooze. There may be small bumps clustered together or larger red areas. These areas may have honey-colored crusts or blisters. Impetigo spreads quickly and is often itchy. Children may scratch the crusts off and cause a little bleeding.

What causes it? Impetigo is caused by common skin germs (such as strep and staph). These germs usually cause infection only when the skin gets injured (scraped, cut, or scratched). Impetigo can easily spread among young children who touch everything.

How is it diagnosed and treated? Your health care provider can tell you if your child has impetigo. Usually it is treated with some combination of a special soap, an antibiotic ointment, and sometimes an oral antibiotic.

What should you do about impetigo? The most important thing is to keep the impetigo rash clean and dry. You may want to cover it lightly so the ooze and crusts cannot be spread to other people. **People who touch the rash should wash their hands very well.**

Please take these precautions:

1. Check your child's skin for an impetigo rash
2. Take our child to your health care provider if you suspect your child has an impetigo rash so that medicine may be prescribed.
3. Tell us if your child is being treated for impetigo.
4. If your child has impetigo, he or she may return to the center **the day after** treatment is begun.