

## Impetigo

### What is impetigo?

Impetigo (im-peh-tie-go) is an infection of a sore or scratch on the skin. It spreads easily by touching the sores.

### What is the treatment for impetigo?

Washing with soap and water several times a day is the first treatment. Antibiotics (by mouth or ointment) may be prescribed to fight the infection.

### How can I prevent the spread of impetigo?

Wash the infected area 4 times a day with warm soapy water to remove the crust and drainage from the blisters.

You can try an over-the-counter antibacterial soap and ointment until you can talk to the clinic nurse.

Keep your child's towels and washcloths separate from all other towels.

Cut and clean your child's fingernails. You may need to put socks or mittens on the child's hands to prevent scratching.

Use antibiotics as directed.

### When can my child go back to school or daycare?

Impetigo spreads very easily. Your child should stay home until 24 hours after starting the antibiotic. If an antibiotic is not used, your child should stay home until the sores are dry and no longer crusted.

### When should I call the clinic?

- not getting better
- fever or sore throat
- increase in redness or tenderness
- streak of color near the sore
- anyone else at home has the same kind of sores
- sores increase in size and number after 2 days

### Questions?

This sheet is not specific to your child, but provides general information. If you have any questions, please call the clinic.

For more reading material about this and other health topics, please call or visit the Family Resource Center library, or visit our Web site: [www.childrensmn.org](http://www.childrensmn.org).

Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota  
Patient/Family Education  
2525 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
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