

IMPETIGO PARENT FACT SHEET

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Your child may have been exposed to: Impetigo

Impetigo is a bacterial skin infection. It usually occurs on the nose, arms, legs, or around the mouth.

If you think your child has impetigo, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Keep your child home from childcare and school if impetigo is confirmed by your health care provider. Your child will need to stay home until 24 hours after treatment is started and the sores are drying.

Symptoms

Your child may have sores on the skin. The sores can produce a thick golden-yellow discharge that dries, crusts, and sticks to the skin. It usually begins at a break in the skin and can start near a cut or insect bite.

If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 10 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

By touching the fluid from the sores.

By touching contaminated objects (for example clothing, bedding, towels).

Contagious period

Until sores are healed, or the person has been treated for at least 24 hours.

Call your health care provider

If anyone in your home has symptoms of impetigo. Your doctor may prescribe a medication.

Prevention

- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with fluid from the sores. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with fluid from the sores. Use a product that kills germs.
- Do not share bedding, towels, washcloths, or clothing.
- Keep sores covered with a bandage. Remind children not to scratch the sores.
- Wear disposable medical gloves or use cotton-tipped swabs if applying ointment to sores. Dispose of any soiled tissues, bandages, and gloves carefully.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-434-1690 & 775-887-2190 (after hours)

[Central Nevada Health District](#) (Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, Pershing Counties) 775-866-7535

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

Email: dpbhepi@health.nv.gov