

IMPETIGO

Impetigo is a skin infection of blister-like lesions that become yellow crusted irregular sores. They can occur anywhere on the body and they itch.

The cause is Streptococcus ("strep") or staphylococcus ("staph").

Communicability: From direct contact with the draining lesions. It is important to note that the strep and staph may not only be present at the sores, but also in the throat, nose or elsewhere on the skin.

Treatment: Impetigo caused by staph: For superficial skin lesions, bacitracin ointment and hot soaks may be the only treatment needed. Drainage of abscesses is usually necessary.

Impetigo caused by strep: Local antibacterial preparations, such as bacitracin ointment, may be useful to limit person-to-person spread of streptococcal impetigo. With multiple spreading lesions or impetigo in multiple family members, day care groups, or athletic teams, impetigo should be treated systemically with antibiotics, as for streptococcal pharyngitis.

Control Measures: Exclude from school until adequately treated, and lesions are no longer draining. Report outbreaks only.