Dear parent or guardian:

Your child recently may have been exposed to **impetigo**. Impetigo is a common skin infection caused by bacteria.

Children with impetigo should stay home from school or childcare until they start antibiotic treatment.

# Symptoms

Symptoms include small, red pimples or fluid-filled blisters. They appear on the face, hands, and feet, but can be anywhere on the body. Sores quickly rupture and ooze, then develop a yellow-brown crust after a few days.

# Spread

Impetigo spreads through direct contact with fluid from the blisters or from contaminated surfaces. Bacteria can enter through broken skin, like cuts or sores.

# Diagnosis and treatment

Contact your healthcare provider if your child has red pimples, fluid-filled blisters, or yellow scabs that will not go away. Generally, healthcare providers prescribe antibiotics to prevent spreading impetigo to others.

# Prevention

* Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water.
* Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs and toys, often.
* Wash the child’s clothing and towels daily. Do not share towels.
* Cut nails short to prevent damage from scratching.
* Cover sores with bandage or gauze.
* Keep children with impetigo home from school or childcare until they start antibiotics.

# Learn more

For more info, contact a healthcare provider.