

Dear Parent or Guardian:

- A student at school has Impetigo  
 Your child may have Impetigo

### **WHAT IS IMPETIGO?**

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the skin. Impetigo develops most frequently on the face, legs, and fingers but may also be found on the arms and trunk. It begins as a cluster of small blisters that expand and rupture within the first 24 hours. A thin, yellow fluid then drains from the ruptured blisters. The fluid accumulates and dries quickly to form a honey-colored scab that may cause itchiness. Generally, the infection heals without scarring. There is usually no fever present.

### **HOW DOES IMPETIGO SPREAD?**

Impetigo may develop after the skin is infected with streptococcal and/or staphylococcal bacteria. The bacteria is usually spread through direct skin-to-skin contact with an individual infected with impetigo. It is possible for an individual to spread the infection from one part of their body to another. Impetigo may be spread indirectly by contact with objects such as towels, clothing or other personal items that are contaminated with the bacteria. Impetigo can also develop when a small scratch, scrape or insect bite becomes infected with the bacteria.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS IMPETIGO?**

1. Watch your child and family members for signs of impetigo. See your health care provider if symptoms develop.
2. Your child may need to be given an oral antibiotic or have an antibiotic ointment applied. If so, use the medication as directed. Do not send your child to school until 24 hours after you begin using the medication.
3. Inform the school staff that your child is being treated for impetigo.
4. Keep the area(s) clean. Gently wash the infected area with an antibacterial soap and water. **Always thoroughly wash your hands after assisting your child in cleansing the infected areas.**
5. Teach your child to avoid touching or scratching the infected area. Teach your child to wash their hands thoroughly if accidental touching of the area occurs.
6. Be sure to wash/disinfect anything that comes in contact with the infected area, i.e. towels, washcloths, clothing, etc.
7. For further information, contact the school nurse.