

Impetigo

Clinical Description:

Impetigo is a skin eruption caused by either streptococcal or staphylococcal bacteria that may proceed through vesicular, pustular, and encrusted stages. Impetigo is characterized by red bumps, usually on the face (particularly around the nose and mouth) or extremities. The red bumps fill with pus, break open and form a honey-colored crust. The lesions are usually itchy, but not painful. The rash typically lasts 2 to 3 weeks.

Incubation Period:

Symptoms usually begin 1 - 3 days after exposure for *Streptococcus*; usually 4 -10 days for *Staphylococcus*.

Mode of Transmission:

Infection is spread by direct contact with secretions from lesions.

Period of Communicability:

A person who is untreated can spread the bacteria for as long as drainage occurs from lesions. Infected individuals can no longer transmit the infection within 24 hours after the initiation of antibiotic therapy.

Exclusion/Reporting:

Parents should be advised to keep contagious children home until 24 hours after starting topical or oral antibiotic therapy. Contacts of cases do not need to be excluded.

Prevention/Care:

- Encourage frequent hand-washing.
- Educate students to avoid scratching and touching the infected area and then touching another area of the body.
- Wear disposable gloves while applying any treatments to infected skin.
- Draining lesions should be covered at all times with a dressing.
- Call caregiver of child.
- Watch for additional cases.

Outbreaks:

According to the ISDH Communicable Disease Reporting Rule (410 IAC 1-2.3) the definition of an outbreak means cases of disease occurring in a community, region, or particular population at a rate in excess of that which is normally expected. The local health department should be notified of suspected and/or documented cases of Impetigo if the number of cases is in excess of what is normally experienced in your school or occur with a common connection (same class, sports team, etc.). For additional information and recommendations regarding the preparation for, and the management of an outbreak situation in a school setting, see Appendix A, "Managing an Infectious Disease Outbreak In a School Setting."

Other Resources:

Indiana State Department of Health Quick Facts Page (found on disease/condition page):

<http://bit.ly/12IJLfD>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/groupastreptococcal_g.htm

Mayo Clinic:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/impetigo/DS00464>

Photographs of Disease/Condition:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/medical/IM00400>