

IMPETIGO

Incubation, Signs and Symptoms

Incubation Period: 1-10 days, occasionally longer or indefinite.

Signs and Symptoms: Blister-like lesions on the skin which later ooze and develop into crusted sores. They appear in an irregular pattern. The sores may spread into a red, oozy rash that gets a clear or honey-colored crust. Itching is common.

Methods of Transmission

Only spread by direct contact with draining sores. Contaminated hands are the most frequent method for spreading infection. Often, tiny breaks in the skin allow bacteria in to cause infection. Some people carry the bacteria and can easily infect others when the skin is broken. Impetigo can be caused by staphylococcal or streptococcal bacteria.

Minimum Control Measures

Communicable Period: As long as sores continue to weep or drain.

Control: EXCLUDE from attendance until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started, until sores are dried, or until sores can be covered with a bandage.

Other Information

Early detection and adequate treatment are important in preventing spread. Medical treatment is necessary. Oral antibiotics are preferred treatment for multiple lesions. Any person with lesions should avoid contact with newborn babies. The infected individual should use separate disposable towels and washcloths. Place dressings in a disposable bag and immediately put in the garbage.