

# IMPETIGO



July, 2012



**Impetigo is one of the most common skin infections in children.** It is contagious and can be spread to others through close contact or by sharing towels, sheets, clothing, toys, or other items.

## Description:

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the skin. It starts as a small blister with surrounding reddened area.

Soon a clear liquid comes from the blister and forms a light brown or "honey" colored crust. This spreads to other parts of the body when the child scratches the infected area and then scratches other areas of the skin.

**It commonly starts under the nose after a cold.**

## Treatment:

Make a soapy solution with an antibacterial soap, such as Hibiclens. Immerse several cotton balls in this solution. The infected skin should then be scrubbed hard with soaked cotton balls to remove the crusts. Some bleeding may occur...that's ok. Treat only a small area of skin at a time, to prevent spread of the infection and rinse well with clear water. Wash your hands well afterwards.

Dry well.

Apply an antibacterial ointment.

Repeat this treatment at least 3 times a day.

## General instructions:

Wash all of your child's washable clothes, sheets, pillowcases, and towels in hot water. Wash the child's things separate from the family wash.

Keep all of the child's washcloths, towels, and toothbrush separate from the rest of the family's. Do not allow the child to bathe in the family tub until the skin is healed. A shower is all right.

Remember that careful hand washing done often by the child and family will help cut down the spread of this infection.

Watch for the spread to other parts of the child's body or to other people. Also watch for swelling and lumps around the rash, under the arms, or in the groin. Also check for fever. Do not hesitate to call us if any of these symptoms occur.