

## **Impetigo Information Sheet**

### **What is Impetigo?**

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by bacteria (streptococcus pyogenes or staphylococcus aureus). It usually affects young children.

### **What are the symptoms?**

Impetigo starts out as a cluster of small blisters that rupture within 24 hours. A golden yellow discharge is produced that dries and crusts over. Common sites are the face, arms, buttocks and legs.

### **How is Impetigo spread?**

The infection is spread when someone touches the impetigo blisters and then touches another person.

### **Is there a treatment?**

Yes. Impetigo is treated with antibiotics and/or an antibiotic cream.

### **What kind of precautions should a person with Impetigo take to prevent spreading it to others?**

- Avoid contact with other people until antibiotics have been taken for at least 24 hours.
- Wash hands often.
- Use separate towels and wash cloths from other household members.
- Avoid contact with newborn babies and unwell people.
- Clean and disinfect toys and commonly used items like door-handles, countertops, etc.
- Avoid preparing and handling food until you have been taking antibiotics for 24 hours. In addition, blisters that have not crusted over must be covered.

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For further information, please call:  
**York Region Health Services *Health Connection***  
**1-800-361-5653**  
[www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca)