



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-275-6740

## Impetigo

### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Impetigo** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date \_\_\_\_\_.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

#### **What is impetigo?**

Impetigo is an infection of the skin caused primarily by the bacterium *Streptococcus pyogenes*, also known as Group A streptococci (GAS), or *Staphylococcus aureus*.

#### **What are the symptoms of impetigo?**

Impetigo begins as a cluster of small, red blisters that expand and rupture within the first 24 hours. The thin yellow fluid that drains from the open blisters dries quickly and forms a honey-colored crust. Impetigo occurs mostly around the nose and mouth, but may also be found on the arms, legs, or trunk. The lesions are usually itchy, but not painful.

#### **How does a person get impetigo?**

Impetigo infection is spread by direct contact with the fluids from a person's open blisters. A person who has not received treatment can spread the bacteria for as long as they have drainage from the lesions. Infected individuals can no longer transmit the infection within 24 hours after they start antibiotics.

#### **How long does it take to develop impetigo following exposure?**

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

#### **How is impetigo treated?**

Your health care provider can advise you on treatment options. Impetigo is treated with oral or topical antibiotics.

#### **How long is a child with impetigo excluded from childcare?**

Children are excluded from the classroom until 24 hours after starting adequate antibiotics.



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-275-6740

## Impetigo

---

### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

#### **How can I limit the spread of impetigo?**

Simple cleanliness and prompt attention to minor wounds will do much to prevent impetigo. All children and adults should practice good hand washing technique. Persons with impetigo symptoms should seek prompt medical care. Sharing towels, clothing and other personal articles should be discouraged.