

CANNON FALLS AREA SCHOOLS
Health Office

Dear Parent/Guardian: There is a child in your child's class who has been diagnosed with impetigo.

IMPETIGO

Impetigo is a contagious skin infection often occurring on the nose, arms, legs, or around the mouth. This infection is common in young children. Complications such as heart or kidney disease may develop if children do not receive proper treatment.

CAUSE: Streptococcus and Staphylococcus bacteria.

SYMPTOMS: Sores that form an oozing, sticky yellow crust; itching.

SPREAD: Most often by contact with the sores; sometimes through secretions from the nose and throat.

INCUBATION: It usually takes 1 to 10 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms develop.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: Until sores are healed, or person has been treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL: Until child has been treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours.

PREVENTION/CONTROL:

1. Wash hands carefully with soap and running water after contact with sores.
2. When possible, cover sore as a barrier to prevent spread.
3. Diagnosis/Treatment - if you suspect impetigo, contact your physician for diagnosis and treatment. Impetigo often can be treated with topical antibiotics (applied directly to the skin) when only a few lesions are present. When there are more than a few sores, your physician may prescribe oral or injectable antibiotics.