

# Impetigo Notification

On \_\_\_\_\_, a child in this childcare center was diagnosed with **impetigo**.

**What is it?** Impetigo is a skin usually caused by two different types of bacteria. It is spread from person to person through direct contact with the discharge from a lesion. This infection can spread rapidly among children in close contact and scratching the sores may spread impetigo to other parts of the body. Children can return to care when being treated for 24 hours or lesions are dry.

## What to watch for?

- It starts when a small cut or scratch becomes infected.
- Oozing, honey-colored, crusty sores.

## How can we prevent it?

- **Wash hands**, all scratches, and sores with soap and water.
- If your child has a runny nose, keep the area between the child's nose and upper lip clean to prevent infection.
- Keep your child's fingernails short and clean.

## What can we do at home?

- Remove crusts by soaking the area in warm water for 15-20 minutes. Then scrub gently with a washcloth and antibacterial soap. Pat dry, do not rub.
- Apply antibiotic ointment. Cover the area with gauze. This will keep the infection from spreading and prevent scratching.
- Do not share towels, washcloths, or bath water.

## When do we call a doctor?

- If the area of impetigo is larger than two inches.
- If it does not improve after 3-4 days of home treatment or new infected areas appear.
- If there is facial swelling or tenderness, especially near the nose and lips.
- If other signs of infection develop, such as pain, swelling, or tenderness, redness or streaks extending from the area, discharge of pus, fever >100 degrees.