



September 16, 2022

Notice of a Contagious Condition

Dear Early Childhood Education Center Parent/Guardian,

A child at the Early Childhood Education Center has a confirmed case of Impetigo. Impetigo, one of the most common skin infections among children, typically produces blisters or sores on the face, neck, hands and diaper areas. Impetigo usually affects preschool- and school-aged children. A child may be more likely to develop impetigo if the skin has already been irritated by other skin problems, such as eczema. Routine washing of the face and hands can help prevent impetigo. If your child is experiencing symptoms of impetigo, you will be contacted to pick up your child.

What are the signs of impetigo? Small, red pimples or fluid-filled blisters with crusted yellow scabs found most often on the face, but may be anywhere on the body.

Is it contagious? Yes. The bacteria sit on the skin for 7-10 days before becoming a sore. Impetigo is contagious until 24 hours after the first dose of treatment or the crusting lesions are no longer present.

How is it spread? Impetigo is spread through direct contact with an infected person or from contaminated surfaces. Germs enter an opening on the skin (cut, scrape, bug bite, etc.) and cause oozing, leading to honey colored-crusted sores.

How do you control it? Cover the lesions, and then exclude infected individuals at the end of the day until topical, oral or other systemic antibiotics are started. Use good hand-washing technique at all times. Clean and sanitize surfaces. Clip fingernails to reduce further injury of tissues by scratching and subsequent spread through contaminated fingernails.

Teaching staff continue to follow cleaning and sanitation schedules to minimize the spread of any contagious disease.

My child has symptoms of impetigo. What now?

- Families should consult with your child's healthcare provider to develop a treatment plan. Children will be sent home if experiencing symptoms of impetigo. Children can return to school when cleared by a health care provider **and** after 24 hours of receiving first dose of treatment.
- Keep the infected area clean and loosely covered. Wash hands after coming into contact with sores. Launder contaminated clothing and bedding daily.
- Apply medication as directed.

Should your child present any of these symptoms, we recommend you consult your family healthcare provider. Any student presenting these signs and symptoms will be excluded from school. Students must have a note from a healthcare provider stating they are under treatment and affected areas of the skin must be covered in order to return to school. **If you have any further questions, please contact the Early Childhood Education Center Health Office at 480-362-2254 or 480-362-2206.**

Respectfully,

Tami Brungard
Early Childhood Education Leader



Information adapted from *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide* (American Academy of Pediatrics).

10005 E. Osborn Road • Scottsdale, AZ 85256 • ECEC.saltriverschools.org