



School Sores (Impetigo) Notification

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Dear Parents/Caregivers

A case of school sores or impetigo has been reported in your student's classroom. Overleaf is current information concerning the infection.

If you suspect your child has the condition, we ask that you please adhere to the suggestions on the information attached and consult your GP as soon as possible.

Please notify the College immediately if you suspect or can confirm your child has this condition. This will enable us to control any outbreaks quickly. Your information will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Yours sincerely

John Robinson
Principal

School sores (impetigo) - including symptoms, treatment and prevention

School sores (impetigo) are a superficial skin infection caused by *Staphylococcus* or *Streptococcus* bacteria, or sometimes both, that is most common in children.

How school sores are spread

The bacteria can easily spread to other parts of the infected person's body or to other people directly by contact with sores or indirectly by contact with contaminated clothes.

Signs and symptoms

School sores appear as a flat, yellow, crusty or moist patches on the skin (see image), usually on exposed parts of the body such as the face and legs. The sores are often greater than 1 cm in diameter.

Image: Impetigo (school sore)



Diagnosis

Diagnosis is based on clinical presentation. Dry, cracked skin serves as an area for growth of the *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus* bacteria.

Incubation period

(time between becoming infected and developing symptoms)

4 to 10 days.

Infectious period

(time during which an infected person can infect to others)

As long as there is discharge from the sores. School sores are extremely infectious.

Treatment

The doctor may recommend the use of antibiotic ointment, or antibiotics by mouth in severe cases.

Any sores on exposed surfaces should be covered with a watertight dressing.

Prevention

- [Exclude people with school sores from childcare, preschool, school and work](#) until appropriate treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed surfaces should be completely covered with a dressing.
- [Good hand washing procedures](#) should be encouraged.

Useful links

- [Exclusion periods from childcare, preschool, school and work](#)
- [Hand hygiene](#)

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