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Impetigo at School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We want to inform you that we have received a few reported cases of impetigo at your child's school. Impetigo is a contagious skin infection, which is often mistaken for "fever blisters" or "cold sores". This common infection does not clear up without treatment and may spread rapidly through a school.

If you suspect that your child has impetigo, he/she Must Not Attend School Until Treated.

The infection often appears near the mouth or nose, beginning as a thin blister full of watery fluid. The blister increases in size, the secretion forms thick crusts, and other blisters appear. The condition may spread rapidly and involve a large part of the face and head. It is also commonly found on the hands and it sometimes spreads to the rest of the body.

The cause of impetigo is a germ found in the secretion of the blisters and sores. The disease is spread by contact with this secretion or with anything which has been contaminated by it.

Please have your child see their family health care provider if they develop a rash.

Your child may return to school if under treatment and lesions are lightly covered while in school. In more severe cases oral antibiotics may need to be prescribed by your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions, you may contact your child's school office.