

## **SCHOOL SORES (Impetigo)**

### **Description**

Impetigo is a bacterial infection caused by the staphylococcal and/or the streptococcal organism. Sores erupt on the skin, sometimes beginning with watery blisters that develop into moist, crusty yellow patches. The sores can spread very easily to other parts of the infected person's body.

### **Spread of Infection**

By direct contact with the sores or by handling contaminated clothes, bedding, toys or other items. A child with dry, cracked skin can pick up the infection very quickly.

### **Incubation period**

Between 1 and 3 days.

### **Infectious period**

During the time there is discharge from the sores.

### **Treatment**

Sores should be treated with antibiotics prescribed by a doctor. Strict hygiene habits such as regular hand-washing should be emphasised.

### **Responsibility of parents/caregivers**

**Report the infection to the teacher. Keep the child away from school until treatment has commenced. Make sure sores are covered.**