

Date:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Someone in our child care has been diagnosed with impetigo. Your child may have been exposed. Impetigo is a common skin infection caused by bacteria.

Impetigo begins as small red spots that turn into tiny blisters. When the blisters open, they produce a thick, honey-colored discharge that dries, crusts, and sticks to the skin. The blisters are painful and itch. The infection most often appears on the face, especially around the mouth and the nose, but may also appear on other areas of the body.

Impetigo is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact with an infected person or by coming in contact with items contaminated with the bacteria, such as toys, towels, or pillowcases. If you believe your child may have impetigo, contact your health care provider. Please notify us if a diagnosis of impetigo is made.

Children with impetigo must stay home from child care or school for at least 24 hours. They may return after antibiotic treatment has begun and there is no more discharge from the sores.

Hand washing is an effective method of preventing the spread of germs, including impetigo. Discourage the sharing of personal articles such as towels, linens, and clothing. Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces and items that may be soiled with body fluids is also important.

Our employees have received training on proper hand washing as well as cleaning and sanitizing child care environments. We encourage and assist your children with proper hand washing techniques and good hygiene. If you have additional questions you may contact a Public Health Nurse in Communicable Disease at the Whatcom County Health Department by calling 360-778-6100.

Thoughtfully,