



## IMPETIGO

Date:

Dear Parent:

A child at day care has been diagnosed with ***Impetigo***.

**Impetigo** is a skin infection common in young children and most often occurring on the face and around the mouth.

Small blisters appear commonly on the face and hands that form flat, yellow, crusty, weeping patches on the skin. These sores grow rapidly in size.

Impetigo is caused by common skin germs, which only cause trouble when the skin is injured by a cut, scrape or scratched insect bite.

Impetigo is treated with an antibiotic ointment for the sores and/or an oral antibiotic (such as penicillin) to fight the germs causing the sores.

The sores should be soaked in warm water and the crust removed.

Apply the antibiotic ointment to the sores and cover the sores until they are healed (depending on where they are on the body).

Children should not participate in contact sports until their Impetigo has healed.

Impetigo can be prevented in a childcare center by promptly treating cases, by excluding untreated children from the center until 24 to 48 hours after they receive treatment and by making sure anyone who has contact with the sores washes his/her hands well with soap and water.

Please consult your physician if you feel your child may have Impetigo, or if you have any questions, please call your local Health District office.