

IMPETIGO

Impetigo, also known as “school sores,” is a skin infection characterized by red to purplish sores that rupture and scab over into golden-yellow crusts. It is highly contagious and most commonly spread among young children ages 2 to 5, hence the colloquial name. The infection spreads

by direct contact and can be averted with handwashing and other hygiene measures, and is treated with topical or oral antibiotics; it is usually caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes* or *Staphylococcus aureus*. Lesions typically occur on the face around the nose and

mouth, but can also be found on the trunk and limbs. Sores may itch but pain is unusual; yellow crusts can be painful and cause underlying and surrounding skin to crack. In darker skin, crusts may have a purplish cast, while in lighter skin they appear pink to red.

Label key

- A - yellow crust
- B - unruptured sore
- C - *Strep. pyogenes*
- D - *Staph. aureus*

