

# Impetigo

## What is it?

- **Impetigo**- bacterial infection, more common in children than adults
- **Skin Infection**- caused by Staphylococcus or Streptococcus; leading to small pus-filled blisters or pustules, can follow a fungal infection, sunburn, insect bite



## Signs and Symptoms:

- **Cuts or Scratch**- honey colored oozing, crusty sores on the face between the nose and upper lips, especially after a cold
- **Scratching**- spreads impetigo to other parts of the body
- **Runny Nose**- keep area between nose and upper lip clean to prevent infection



## Facts:

- **Begins**- with an infected cuts or scratch, can be pea sized to large rings
- **Prevention**- washing hands thoroughly after scratching
  - **Wash**- all sores, scratches with a mild soap and water
- **Fingernails**- keep short, clean
- **Affects**- mostly children, can appears anywhere on the body, usually affects arms, legs, face and especially children's legs

## What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- if impetigo is not gone in 4 days with home treatment, if areas appear to be infected, facial swelling, tenderness
  - **Treatment**- penicillin or cephalosporin usually taken by mouth
- **Soak Sores**- to remove the crust, takes about 15 minutes in warm water, gently scrub with an antibacterial soap, do not rub, gently pat and the scab will come off
- **Antibiotic Ointment**- apply, cover are with gauze, tape away from the sores, helps to prevent scratching, spreading
- **Adult Men**- shave around the sores, use a clean blade daily
- **AVOID**- sharing towels, bath water, bath cloths, razors, using a shaving brush, opening the sores when shaving