Impetigo

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by bacteria entering the skin through a broken area, such as a cut, cold sore, insect bite or an area affected by eczema. (See "Eczema" CARE CARD.)

As the parent of a child with impetigo, you should:

1. Wash your hands before and after you care for your child.
2. Give the prescribed medicine to your child as ordered until all of it is gone.
3. Have your child use his own wash cloth, towel and linens. Do Not let other family members use the affected child’s belongings. Wash any towels, linens and clothes after he uses them.
4. Wash all your child’s personal items with hot water and soap and dry in a hot dryer.
6. Your child may return to school with any sores covered with a Band-Aid.

Special instructions/medications:

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Return to your child’s doctor if:

- The infection does not improve after taking the medicine for 4 to 5 days.
- The infection appears to be spreading in spite of treatment.
- Your child gets a fever or seems to be sicker.

If you have questions, call the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188.