

# From the School Nurse...

Mamaroneck Union Free School District

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## EXPOSURE NOTICE

### Impetigo

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to a highly contagious skin infection called impetigo. It is a common infection in children. Onset is about 2 - 5 days after exposure.

Impetigo is caused by bacteria entering the skin through a broken area, such as a cut or a cold sore. The infection is more common in warm weather.

Impetigo usually occurs around the nose and mouth. The skin reddens and small, fluid filled blisters appear on the surface. The blisters tend to burst, leaving moist, weeping areas underneath. The released fluid dries to leave honey-colored crusts on the skin. The infected area may spread at the edges or another patch may develop nearby. In severe cases, there may be swelling of the lymph nodes in the face or neck, accompanied by a fever.

Therefore, if your child develops any of the symptoms listed above, it is advisable to contact your physician for treatment. Treatment consists of antibiotic therapy, which usually clears up the problem in about 5 days. Once treatment has begun your child can return to school 24 hours later. Any loose crusts should be gently washed off with soap and water and the area dabbed dry.

To prevent spreading, pillowcases, towels, and washcloths should not be shared and should be washed after each use. Children should not touch the affected skin and should stay out of school until the sores are no longer oozing.

Because impetigo spreads so rapidly, it is advisable to consult a physician. If your child has impetigo, a doctor's note stating the diagnosis and treatment being done is needed in order for your child to return to school.

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