



# St. Anthony of Padua CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“Excellence. . . Strengthened by Faith”

Dear Parent/Guardian,

There has been a case of impetigo reported at the school. The following information is for your reference.

Impetigo is a **highly contagious** skin infection caused by bacteria, which is normally found on the skin. When the bacteria get under the skin by way of a cut, scratch, insect bite or abrasion, it begins to multiply and grow. The wound becomes swollen and reddened, a small pus-filled blister forms, and when the blister breaks, it forms a distinctive honey-colored crust. The lesions are most commonly found on the face, arms or legs, but can occur anywhere on the body. If lesions are not treated, they will continue to grow as the bacteria spreads. The lesions are typically not painful, but may be tender to touch. People of any age may get impetigo, but it occurs most frequently in children 2 to 5 years of age.

Impetigo is spread through contact. Fingers, clothing or anything that touches the lesion can transfer the bacteria to other areas of skin and to other persons. Good hygiene and thorough hand washing can help prevent the spread of infection.

Impetigo requires treatment by a physician, usually with oral antibiotics or antibiotic ointment. Warm soaks to soften and loosen the crusts may help the child feel more comfortable and prevent picking at the crusts. Daily bathing and frequent changes of clothing and bedding are also important.

A student infected with impetigo must be excluded from school until a physician determines that the child may return – no sooner than 24 hours after the beginning of medical treatment.

If you have further questions or concerns, please consult with your physician.

Sincerely,

Leslie Pavlock, LVN  
School Nurse

*Reference: Texas Department of State Health Services, Communicable Disease Chart  
Texas Catholic Conference Education Department 2007*