

October 5, 2015

## **Important Message from the Pennsbury Nursing Coordinator**

We have one reported case of Impetigo at Pennsbury High School.

Impetigo is a common skin infection caused by Staphylococcus (staph) or Streptococcus (step) bacteria.

This commonly occurs when the bacteria enter the skin through cuts or insect bites. Impetigo is spread by contact with sores or mucus from the nose or throat of an infected person. Scratching or touching an infected area of the skin and then touching another part of the body can spread infection.

Impetigo is most common among children age 2-6 years of age. The symptoms start with red or pimple-like sores surrounded by red skin. These sores appear anywhere on the body, but mostly on the face, arms, and legs. The lesions fill with pus, break open after a few days and then crust over.

Antibiotic cream to the surface of the sores or oral medication can be used. Once on the antibiotic, students are able to return to school within 24 hours of treatment. The importance of hand washing and keeping skin clean is important.

Pennsbury High School has done everything possible to prevent the spread of this infection. The classrooms and all touch surfaces are being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a hospital-grade disinfectant.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to call the nurse's office at East and West Campus.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McGinnis, RN-BC, MEd, Nurse Coordinator

Certified School Nurse