**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

# IMPETIGO

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat impetigo as follows:

1. Check the student’s temperature.
2. Cleanse the lesion with a topical antiseptic.
3. Cover exposed lesions, if possible. Caution the student to avoid direct skin-to-skin contact with other students while the lesions remain.
4. Initiate oral antibiotics to cover staphylococcal and streptococcal skin infections, with cephalexin (Keflex) 500 mg po twice daily for 10 days.
5. Alternative treatment with mupirocin (Bactroban) cream/ointment applied 3 times a day for 10 days may be considered for small lesions.
6. If methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is suspected, administer trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim DS) twice daily for 10 days.
7. Question the student about whether or not he/she is aware of other students with similar lesions. If so, call affected students into the health and wellness center for evaluation and treatment.

**WHEN TO REFER TO THE CENTER PHYSICIAN**

* If lesions are not improving on antibiotics or there are signs of cellulitis (surrounding erythema, streaking from the lesions, local tenderness) or abscess
* If the student has a fever >101°F