

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PREVENTION AND HOME CARE OF SKIN INFECTIONS

PREVENTION

Practicing good hygiene can help prevent skin infections:

1. Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol based sanitizer.
2. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
3. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or washcloths.
2. DO NOT pick at sores or blemishes.
3. Wash any cuts or scratches with soap and water.
4. Put a bandage over the area to keep germs out. (Do not bandage injuries too tightly and remember to change the bandage at least twice a day or if it becomes dirty or wet.

HOME CARE:

Home care for minor, localized infections includes:

1. Wash the infected area at least twice a day with soap and water.
2. Dry the wound after cleansing.
3. Cover the infected area lightly with a dry gauze bandage.
4. Change the bandage daily or whenever it becomes wet or dirty.
5. Inspect the infected area daily for signs of a more serious infection, such as: increased redness; swelling; pus/drainage; or red streaks spreading from the wound. (There may also be increased pain or fever.)

Without proper care, a localized infection can develop into a potentially serious infection. If any signs of a serious skin infection occur, call your own physician or health care provider.