

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC AND HEALTH TIP:

Skin infections can be caused by:

- Insect bites, cuts, grazes and scratches
- School sores (impetigo) are caused by a germ that gets into cuts, grazes and sores.
- Scabies is an itchy rash and blisters caused by small insects that get under the skin.
- Skin infections can sometimes lead to kidney problems or to infected bones or joints or to cellulites, which causes blood poisoning.

Anyone can get a skin infection. Many skin infections, such as **scabies and impetigo are easily spread from the infected person to their friends and family.**

- It is important to clean, and cover the sores with clean dressing, plasters or a piece of cloth to stop the infection from spreading.
- Don't share bath water, towels or clothes with other people in the family.



What to do if the cuts, scratch or graze gets worse:

GO TO THE DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY IF ANY OF THESE THINGS HAPPEN:

- The sore gets more red, swollen or painful
- There is pus
- Red lines on the skin spread out from the infected area
- Your child feels unwell or has a fever

This is a serious skin infection which may travel to your child's blood.
Your child may need blood tests and antibiotics.



Skin infection checks: See information, photo examples and advice in the Colwil School Community Hub.

If your child has a skin infection, the Public Health Nurse(PHN) will be happy to talk with you about the infection and may be able to offer any treatment that could be needed.

Contact PHN: 09 839 0000 ext:6395