



Ministry of Health & Wellness PRESS STATEMENT

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN ADVISED TO ABIDE BY PROPER HEALTH PROTOCOLS AFTER HEALTH-RELATED MATTER AT TWO SCHOOLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NASSAU, The Bahamas – October 1, 2026 – The Ministry of Health & Wellness is advising parents and guardians of children attending schools that have been identified by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) for ‘cleaning and sanitation’ to employ proper health protocols in the care of any outbreaks their children may be experiencing.

Today, two (2) schools were temporarily closed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology following consultation with health officials who identified impetigo as the cause of several health-related matters at those schools.

Impetigo is a common, highly contagious skin infection, which is especially common in children but can also affect adults. It often begins as small red sores or blisters that crust and erupt. It is usually caused by the *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Streptococcus* bacteria and is generally treatable with a topical antibiotic. Prompt medical care is advised if there is rapidly spreading redness, significant swelling or pain, fever, pus, red streaking, involvement near the eyes, or if the infection is not improving after treatment begins.

Because impetigo is contagious, close contact with others should be limited until treatment has had time to work; or a clinician has advised that it is safe to return to school or work. The bacteria can also be spread through sharing towels, bedding, clothing or other personal items. Regular handwashing and keeping the affected area clean is advised.

Parents and guardians of school aged children are advised to pay attention to advisements issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) and the Ministry of Health & Wellness regarding this matter.

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