Applying Medication Topically

Topical medication comes in many forms such as:

- gels
- creams
- ointments
- aerosols

In addition to any medication-specific instructions, follow these principles when applying medication topically:

- You should wear gloves if:
  - the skin on your hands is cut, scabbed or broken;
  - the child’s skin where the medication is to be applied is cut, scabbed or broken;
  - the medication to be applied should not touch your skin; or
  - you feel more comfortable wearing gloves to apply the medication.

- For non-aerosol topical medication, squeeze the appropriate amount of medication into your gloved hand.

- If you need to apply more medication, change gloves and squeeze the medication into the clean glove.

- Apply or spray the medication evenly on the skin.

- When spraying any topical medication, shield the child’s face or have the child turn away from the spray and close his/her eyes.
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