

Guidance on Scarlet Fever and invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

We have received the following national guidance, please see information below regarding scarlet fever and Group A Strep.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include:

- sore throat
- headache
- fever
- a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Scarlett fever is linked to Strep Throat as it is caused by the same bacteria. The bacteria usually causes a mild infection. In very rare circumstances, this bacteria can get into the bloodstream – called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). This is still uncommon; however, it is important that parents are on the lookout for symptoms and see a doctor as quickly as possible so that their child can be treated and we can stop the infection becoming serious. Make sure you talk to a health professional if your child is showing signs of deteriorating after a bout of scarlet fever, a sore throat, or a respiratory infection.

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.

For further information please refer to the NHS website or speak to your GP.

Thank you,

Public Health Team

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