

Due to the recent media coverage on STREP A, please see some information below which may be of help.

A Strep advice and support



Our partners in the NHS have given us the latest advice on Group A streptococcus or Strep A that has sadly made national headlines this week.

A common bacteria, lots of us carry it in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't always result in illness but can cause a number of infections, some mild and some more serious.

The most serious infections linked to GAS come from invasive group A strep, known as iGAS.

These infections are caused by the bacteria getting into parts of the body where it is not normally found, such as the lungs or bloodstream. In rare cases an iGASinfection can be fatal.

Whilst iGASinfections are still uncommon, there has been an increase in cases this year, particularly in children under 10 and sadly, a small number of deaths.

It can be spread by close contact with an infected person and can be passed on through coughs and sneezes or from a wound.

Some people can have the bacteria present in their body without feeling unwell or showing any symptoms of infections and while they can pass it on, the risk of spread is much greater when a person is unwell.

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, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.

Therefore parents are advised to look out for symptoms in their children, which include:

-Sore throat

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-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 with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications, such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.

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.