

5th December 2022

Dear all,

Subject: Information about Scarlet Fever, Strep A and invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

Further to the press coverage over the weekend regarding Streptococcal infections, please find below resources which I hope are helpful at this time.

The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that scarlet fever cases continue to remain higher than we would typically see at this time of year, though are currently lower than the typical seasonal peak we often see in Spring.

Scarlet Fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. It's easily treated with antibiotics. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

Signs and symptoms of Scarlet Fever

The first signs of Scarlet Fever are flu-like symptoms such as:

- ☹️ High temperature
- ☹️ Sore throat and swollen neck glands
- 🕒 A bumpy, rough feeling rash usually appears after 12 to 48 hours on the chest and tummy.

If you think your child is showing signs of Scarlet Fever it's important to contact your local GP or NHS111.

Individuals with scarlet fever should not attend setting until 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment. If no antibiotics have been administered, the individual will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks and should not attend setting for this period.

What education settings need to do

Share information about signs and symptoms.

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs.

Encourage children, young people and staff to implement good [hand hygiene](#) practices.

Encourage staff, children and young people to implement good [respiratory hygiene](#) practices.

Report suspected outbreaks to UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – Greater Manchester Team
Tel: 0344 225 0562 (Mon-Fri 9am -5pm). Out of hours: 0151 434 4819

Directorate of Public Health

Bolton Blackrod Farnworth Horwich Kearsley Little Lever South Turton Westhoughton ...all in the family

An outbreak of scarlet fever is 2 or more probable or confirmed scarlet fever cases attending the same school / nursery or other childcare setting notified within 10 days of each other.

Advice and guidance for Bolton education settings

- Bolton Community Infection Prevention and Control Team (based at Bolton Hospital) can help with advice and guidance on measures to prevent the spread of infection Tel: 01204 390 982 (Mon-Fri 9am -5pm)
- You can also contact your local Health Protection Team at Bolton for general enquiries healthprotection@bolton.gov.uk Tel: 01204 337 221 (Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm)
- UKHSA practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in education and childcare settings [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education)

With best wishes,

Lynn Donkin
Interim Director of Public Health