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8th December 2022

Dear parents / carers

We have received updated information from the DfE and our local public health teams with regards the increased cases of scarlet fever and Group A streptococci (Strep A). We understand parents and carers are worried about recent reports of Group A Strep infections in children and young people.

Group A Strep – What you need to know

Group A streptococcus (GAS) is a common bacteria. Lots of us carry it in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't always result in illness. It usually causes a mild infection producing sore throats or scarlet fever that can be treated with antibiotics. However, in rare circumstances, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness, known as invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

You can find out more, including common symptoms by visiting the UK Health Security Agency website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

If you are concerned that your child might have symptoms, you should contact 111 or your GP Surgery. For general advice about common childhood illnesses, please visit the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Healthier Together website at <https://sybhealthiertogether.nhs.uk/>

If a child has scarlet fever we advise that they should stay at home. We encourage parents to trust their own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell to call 999 or go to A&E if;

- Your child is having difficulty breathing (you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs)
- There are pauses when a child breathes
- A child's [skin, tongue or lips are blue](#)
- A child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

To prevent the spread of strep A and other common illnesses, UKHSA advises that we all implement good hand and respiratory hygiene such as regular hand washing, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes and keeping away from others when feeling unwell.

Our schools will continue to follow the guidance in relation to infection control and have clear policies and procedures in place to mitigate risk as far as reasonably possible.

Yours sincerely

Harry Wood
CEO