

# Group A Streptococcal Infection

## Q. What is Group A Streptococcal?

Group A streptococci (GAS) are a type of bacteria that are spread by close contact between people.

## Q. What infections can GAS cause?

GAS can cause Scarlet fever and sore throats, more rarely it can cause more serious disease.

## Q. What is Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is it is highly infectious and usually is mild. Symptoms:

- 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 see but will have a sandpapery feel.)

## Q. How is scarlet fever treated?

Scarlet fever is treated with antibiotics. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever.

## Q. Can my child go to school?

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.

## Q. What is Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infection?

**Very rarely**, GAS can also cause more serious or 'invasive' infection (iGAS) including:

- An infection of the bloodstream
- Skin infection
- Toxic shock syndrome.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal

- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

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 your child breathes
- Your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- Your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-managing-outbreaks-in-schools-and-nurseries>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

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