

January 13, 2012

Dear Families:

We have had two doctor confirmed cases of a Streptococcal infection (which includes scarlet fever) this week. If your child complains of a sore throat, fever, or rash, please take him/her to the doctor.

Incubation period: 1 -3 days. Period of communicability: 10 - 21 days in untreated cases, and 24 - 48 hours after antibiotic treatment. Mode of transmission: direct or intimate contact; objects contaminated with the person's saliva or mucous or by sharing food with an infected person.

Strep Throat Symptoms:

- Throat pain
- Difficulty swallowing
- Red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus
- Tiny red spots on the soft or hard palate – the area at the back of the roof of the mouth
- Swollen, tender lymph glands (nodes) in your neck
- Fever
- Headache
- Rash
- Stomachache and sometimes vomiting, especially in younger children
- Scarlet fever has a general skin rash and a strawberry colored tongue.

Treatment: Antibiotics prescribed by your physician. Untreated, your child may progress from a Strep throat infection into Scarlet Fever or Rheumatic Fever which can lead to heart damage.

Seek medical advice if your child has any of these signs and symptoms:

- A sore throat (without cold symptoms such as a runny nose)
- A sore throat accompanied by tender, swollen lymph glands (nodes)
- A sore throat that lasts longer than 48 hours
- A fever higher than 101° in older children, or any fever lasting longer than 48 hours
- Rash
- Problems breathing or difficulty swallowing anything, including saliva
- A lack of improvement after taking antibiotics for 24 to 48 hours
- A fever – or pain or swelling in the joints, shortness of breath or a rash – after a strep infection, even as long as three weeks after infection. These can be indicators of Rheumatic Fever.

If you have any questions, please call me at 275-6881.

Sincerely,

Maureen Christopher
School Nurse