

## **SCARLET FEVER**

Scarlet fever is an infectious bacterial disease, affecting especially children, causing fever and a scarlet rash. It is caused by a streptococcal infection and can sometimes be referred to as “strep throat”.

Symptoms start 1 to 3 days after exposure and may include: Fever, sore throat, tender and swollen neck glands, red rash and strawberry tongue (the last symptom is present when the child has Scarlet Fever).

Scarlet Fever is usually spread from person to person by direct contact. The “strep” bacterium is found in the nose and/or throat of infected persons and is spread to the next person through the air with sneezing or coughing. An infected person can spread the disease to others until 24 hours after treatment or for 10 to 21 days if left untreated.

Scarlet Fever (strep throat) is diagnosed by a throat culture and will most often be treated with antibiotics.

To avoid spreading the disease to other people in the household, please make sure that the infected person covers his/her mouth when coughing or sneezing; washes hands frequently and always after wiping/blowing nose, going to the toilet, coughing and sneezing; and do not share eating utensils.

Should your child show any symptoms of Scarlet Fever/Strep throat, please keep your child at home and consult your doctor to have it confirmed. Should your doctor confirm that your child has Scarlet Fever/Strep throat, please follow the guidelines from your doctor regarding when to send your child back to school. If your child has a confirmed case of Scarlet Fever/Strep throat, please inform the school as soon as possible.