



## Scarlet Fever

**Your child may have been exposed to this disease**

*If your child has symptoms, please contact your child's healthcare provider.*

**If my child has this disease, when can he or she return to school or child care?**

**Children with scarlet fever may return 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment, AND when they feel well enough to participate in regular school activities.**

### **Scarlet Fever is:**

Scarlet fever is a bacterial infection caused by group A *Streptococcus* or "group A strep." Doctors can test for scarlet fever with a quick strep test

### **The most common symptoms are:**

- Red rash, that feels rough – like sandpaper.
- Affects children between 5 -15
- Usually a mild illness, but people with scarlet fever need antibiotics to prevent rare but serious health problems.
- Sore throat and fever (101F or above)

### **How is strep throat spread?**

- Coughing and sneezing
- Touching your mouth, nose, or eyes after touching something that a sick person has sneezed on, coughed on, or touched

A person who is diagnosed with scarlet fever will stop being able to spread the infection approximately 24 hours after starting an antibiotic from the doctor.

### **What can I do now?**

#### **Watch your child for symptoms of scarlet fever**

- Wash your hands often. It is especially important for anyone with a sore throat to wash his or her hands often. Group A strep bacteria spread through contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze. If you touch your mouth, nose, or eyes after touching something that has these droplets on it, you may become ill.
- Wash glasses, utensils, and plates after someone who is sick uses them. You can get sick after drinking from the same glass or eating from the same plate as a sick person.
- Take antibiotics if infected. Treatment with antibiotics can prevent most long-term health problems from scarlet fever.
- Stay home if infected. Children with scarlet fever should stay home from school or daycare until they no longer have a fever and have taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours
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For more information, contact your health care provider, your School Nurse 619-258-2231, the San Diego County Health Department at (858) 694-3900, or visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/scarletfever/>