

Scarlet Fever

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth and in some cases, this may be accompanied by red tongue (called "strawberry tongue").

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that your/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

Children who have had chickenpox recently may develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital to discuss whether any additional measures are needed. You can find more information in the guidance [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) and [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

In line with the current official guidance, we request that any children who are confirmed to have Strep A or Scarlet Fever stay at home until 24-hours after **antibiotic treatment** has started and please inform the school ASAP.

Otherwise, your child will be expected to attend school as normal and follow our sickness and absence policy.

I hope this information is helpful and we will of course keep you updated of any developments or new official guidance.