



Streptococcal Infections

Date: _____

Type of Illness: _____

To Parent/Guardian of: _____

During this time of the year many children become ill with strep throat, scarlatina, scarlet fever, or a skin infection called impetigo. All of these diseases are caused by a streptococcal bacteria.

What to look for: Symptoms of streptococcal sore throat include sudden onset of fever, sore throat that did not begin with a runny nose, swelling of the glands in the neck, and complaints of a stiff neck. In scarlet fever, a fine red rash appears 1-3 days after onset of a sore throat. The sores of impetigo start as small blisters on the skin that soon break open and form a yellowish or brownish crusts. The sores often begin around the nose or mouth, then spread to other skin surfaces, e.g., arms, legs, abdomen.

How the bacteria is spread: The throat infection is spread from person to person by direct contact or with droplet spread of respiratory secretions. Impetigo is spread by scratching or direct contact with the discharge from the sores of impetigo. Articles used by a person who has the infection can also carry the germs.

How long after exposure a person shows symptoms: Usually 1-7 days

How long a person is contagious: As long as the bacteria are present in the throat or the crusts are present on the skin.

Exclude from attendance: Yes, until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun.

These illnesses are usually not serious; however, complications such as rheumatic fever or kidney disease may rarely develop if children do not receive proper antibiotic treatment. If your child is sent home with these symptoms, please take him/her to a physician for treatment. If you have any question regarding this note, please call your school nurse.

Thank You,

School Nurse

Principal