

EXPOSURE NOTICE*

GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS DISEASE

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to GROUP A STREP.

General information:

Group A Strep is a type of bacteria that may cause many different infections, such as strep throat, scarlet fever, impetigo and others. Group A Strep is usually a mild disease, but it can cause serious complications. Some people get strep more than once, so getting it in the past does not prevent you from getting it again in the future.

What are the symptoms?

Usual symptoms include one or more of the following:

- Fever
- Sore throat that can start very quickly
- Red and swollen tonsils
- Tiny red spots on the roof of the mouth
- Swollen lymph nodes in the front of the neck
- Headache
- Nausea, stomach pain, vomiting
- Red rash with a sandpaper feel on the body

Note: Runny nose and cough are typically NOT symptoms of strep throat.

What do I need to do?

- Watch your child for signs and symptoms of the disease for the next week.
- If your child develops symptoms, please call your healthcare provider, inform the school, and keep your child home. *Please follow your health care provider's instructions for home care and to prevent the spread of disease to others. If your doctor prescribes antibiotics, it is important that your child takes the medication for the entire length of time prescribed.*

Please talk to your Family Service Worker if you do not have a regular healthcare provider or health insurance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON STREP

How is it spread?

Some Strep lives in the nose and throat, and is easily spread by breathing in air near an infected person, or by touching something that has the respiratory secretions on it and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. You can also get strep A by direct contact with an infected person (e.g. sharing utensils, kissing, etc.). It takes 2-5 days after being exposed to the bacteria for someone to develop symptoms.

How do I prevent this disease?

The best way to prevent this disease is to practice good handwashing, especially after sneezing and coughing, and before preparing food or eating.

When can someone with Group A Strep return to school/childcare?

Children with symptoms of Group A Strep infections are to be excluded from school until:

- Fever has been gone for 24 hours and
- At least 24 hours of antibiotic therapy has been completed