



Beckingham Primary School

Head teacher: Mr. P. Phillips BA (Hons)

“Ensuring every child succeeds and THRIVES becoming a life-long learner, prepared for the world of tomorrow”
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Wednesday 7th December, 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Strep A Bacterial Infection & Scarlet Fever

Following the recent updates in the press and media regarding [Strep A](#) cases we would like to share with you key information and symptoms to look out for which has been taken from the NHS guidance.

What is Strep A and how is it spread?

Strep A is a bacterium which is found in the throat or skin. People who carry it may have no symptoms or they may develop an infection. It survives long enough in the throat or skin to allow it to be spread by skin-to-skin contact, coughing and sneezing.

Even in cases where a person has no symptoms, carriers of the disease can still pass on Strep A as easily as those who are feeling ill from it can.

What are the symptoms of Strep A?

The most important thing is to be aware of the early signs and symptoms of Strep A. These are:

- High Fever
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle tenderness
- Redness at the site of a wound

Most symptoms experienced from Strep A will be mild but, on rare occasions, the bacteria can cause severe and life-threatening diseases. These include [scarlet fever](#), which is characterised by a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting followed by a red rash.

Children who have had chickenpox or flu recently are more likely to develop a more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever. Parents should remain vigilant to symptoms such as a high fever and arthritis. Seek medical help immediately if you are concerned.

What happens when you have Strep A and what should you do?

If your child is unwell you should contact your GP practice or call the NHS on 111. If your child has these symptoms you should seek advice from your GP and keep your child off school until they are better.

As the disease is spread through coughing, sneezing and skin contact, good hand hygiene is important. Coughs and sneezes should be caught in tissues and disposed of while staying at home will also limit the spread of infection.

For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep

Yours sincerely,

Peter Phillips
Head teacher

