

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Strep A**

You may be aware from the media that the UK is seeing a high number of Group A strep cases this year. The bacteria usually cause a mild infection which can lead to sore (strep) throats, impetigo or scarlet fever, that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

We wanted to give our families some additional information so that you can be aware of what to look out for and how to respond. We do not currently have any cases of Scarlet Fever at Woodhill right now but wish to be prepared and be transparent in sharing the latest guidance from Public Health England with you.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness and 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 first 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 the skin presents with a 'sandpaper' type texture. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

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

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications
- Make sure that you/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

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable





**WOODHILL**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Owen Phillips  
Woodhill, Woolwich, London, SE18 5JE  
T: 020 8854 5055

info@woodhill.greenwich.sch.uk  
finance@woodhill.greenwich.sch.uk  
www.woodhillschool.co.uk

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

5 ways to protect your under 5s this winter

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/25/5-ways-to-protect-your-under-5s-this-winter/>

Further advice can be obtained from your local GP and/or the NHS website [here](#)

With best wishes

Mr O Phillips  
Headteacher

