



Thursday 8th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have heard a lot recently about Strep A and Scarlet Fever infections. I wanted to reassure you that, as always, we are following government advice.

Schools are currently advised by the Department for Education to contact their UKHSA health protection team if there is an outbreak of 2 or more scarlet fever cases within ten days of each other and the affected individuals have a link - such as being the same class or year.

Clifton has not met these criteria at the moment, but we are monitoring the situation carefully.

Please read the attached guidance from the DfE which sets out symptoms and what parents should do.

Kind regards

Mr N. Lambert
Headteacher

Advice from DfE – 7th December 2022

Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections

The Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, is closely monitoring the increased cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) and scarlet fever. As a Department, we are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), who are leading on the response.

UKHSA is reporting an increased number of cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) compared to normal at this time of year. There is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

What is scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

1. Sore throat
2. Headache
3. Fever
4. A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
5. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If your child has scarlet fever, they need to stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Please trust your own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell 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.