

## scarlet fever & strep throat

Scarlet fever is caused by the Streptococcus germ. This same germ also causes Strep Throat. Strep Throat is the same as Scarlet Fever without the rash.

This sheet gives general information. It is NOT to be used as a medical diagnosis in any specific case.

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Fever, often with a sore throat, headache.
- Fine, pinkish red raised rash appearing on the second day of symptoms. Feels rough to the touch (like sandpaper).
- May have red swollen lips and the tongue may be red and flecked like a strawberry.
- Rash: usually appears on the neck, chest, armpits, elbows and groin.

### INFECTIOUS PERIOD

- 24 hours before symptoms and until 24 hours of antibiotics complete.
- 2 to 3 weeks if untreated.

### HOW IT IS SPREAD?

- Direct contact with fluids from mouth and nose.
- Through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

### INCUBATION

The first symptoms usually appear 1 to 3 days after the person is infected.

### TREATMENT

- A physician should always treat a person with Scarlet Fever or Strep Throat.
- The physician usually will prescribe an antibiotics, it is important to take the antibiotics for the entire duration as directed.

### CONTROL MEASURES

Keep home from school/daycare until 24 hours of antibiotics have been completed.

### PREVENTION

- Good hand washing.
- Family contacts should ask their physician about chemoprophylaxis (preventative treatment).



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