

## NOTIFICATION OF SCARLET FEVER (A bacterial strep infection with a rash)

Incubation period: (the time between exposure to the disease and the appearance of symptoms) Usually 1-3 days.

Contagious period: (when the disease can be transmitted to another person) If left untreated, your child could be contagious for 10 days to several weeks or months. If treated with an antibiotic, your child will no longer be contagious 24 hours after starting to take the medication.

Signs and symptoms: Symptoms will include the appearance of fine, pink rash that feels like sandpaper, most often found on the neck, chest, and underarms, inside elbow, groin and inner surfaces of the thighs. Typically the rash will not be found on the face, but there may be flushing of the cheeks. Other symptoms may include fever, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Tonsils may be swollen, red and painful. As the child recovers, he may have peeling of the skin on his hands and feet. If your child has these symptoms, you should consult your doctor as soon as possible.

Treatment: After evaluation and diagnosis by your doctor, antibiotic treatment will be started. It is extremely important to take all medication as prescribed until gone.

How this disease is spread: Scarlet fever is usually spread by direct person-to-person contact from nose and throat secretions, and rarely by contaminated food.

Control of cases: The infected child should be excluded from school until he/she has been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours and if feeling healthy enough to return to a full day of school and activities. (Your child may need more than 24 hours on an antibiotic before returning to school).

General preventive measures: Teach the importance of proper hand washing. When washing hands, use soap, rubbing hands together for 15 seconds and rinsing in running water. Children should be advised not to share eating/drinking utensils or food.