

Dear Parents/Carers,

We appreciate with the current media attention, many of you are concerned regarding the situation with regard to Group A strep. We would advise the current Government (UKHSA) advice is as follows:

Currently, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. The increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, as a parent, if you feel your child is showing signs of deterioration after a bout of scarlet fever, a sore throat, or a respiratory infection. "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

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

You can also follow the NHS advice for getting the right support at the right time

www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/local-services

Good hand and respiratory hygiene is important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds and by using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes will reduce the risk.

If your child has a confirmed case of Group A strep, please keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

If you require any further information please click on the following government link:

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

Attached are some useful leaflets for your information.

Kind regards,

School Office

