

What is 'Group A Strep'?

Recently parents have been asked to be alert to signs of Group A Streptococcal infections, also known as 'Group A Strep'. This document gives some extra information on what to look out for.

What is Group A Strep?

Group A Strep is a common bacteria that can live harmlessly in our throats and on our skin. Some Group A Strep can cause mild illnesses like sore throats or more serious illnesses like scarlet fever. These illnesses can be easily treated with antibiotics.

Rarely, Group A Strep causes very serious illness such as pneumonia (a bad chest infection), sepsis (when the infection gets into the blood) or bone infections. These very serious illnesses need hospital treatment.

It's important to remember that most sore throats and coughs are caused by viruses and will get better by themselves.

How is Group A Strep spread?

Group A Strep spreads through sneezing, coughing and direct skin contact.

What are the symptoms of Group A Strep?

Mild Group A Strep can cause:

- a sore, red throat;
- fever;
- a white coating on the tongue;



Factsheet - What is Group A Strep

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