

# Group A streptococcus (GAS)

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) spreads through respiratory droplets and skin contact. It causes common illnesses like strep throat and impetigo, in severe case necrotizing fasciitis and toxic shock syndrome.

Last reviewed  
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Invasive GAS (IGAS) occurs when the bacteria proliferate in a normally sterile body site, such as the blood, soft tissues or joints.

Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) can be a severe complication of IGAS, caused by toxins that are produced by GAS, which act on host cells or tissues.

Information for the public

- [Factsheet - What is Group A Strep \(with translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Group A Streptococcus in children \(including scarlet fever and invasive Group A Streptococcus\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Scarlet fever | nidirect](#)

Guidance for healthcare professionals

- [Group A Streptococcus \(GAS\) - NI Infection Control Manual](#)
- [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\) guidance \[NG84\]: Sore throat \(acute\): antimicrobial prescribing](#)

Treatment

- Scarlet fever and strep throat are treated with a course of antibiotics.

Data and surveillance

[Click here to access Scarlet fever and IGAS report | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

**In the report:**

1. Background
2. Cumulative number of scarlet fever and IGAS cases, 2022-2026.
3. Scarlet Fever
4. Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infection
5. Discussion
6. Methods
7. Supplementary Table