

**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.

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

[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

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