

5 December 2022

To: H&F children's settings

Dear colleagues in Hammersmith and Fulham,

Group A streptococcal infection

You may have seen in the news that nationally there have been deaths in children from invasive Group A Streptococcal infection since September [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). We're sharing information on Group A Streptococcal infections, and what to do if a child develops these.

The most common infections caused by Group A streptococcus are mild:

- sore throats (strep throat)
- fever
- scarlet fever
- minor skin infections.

Further information is available at NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions/sore-throat/ or [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk). These infections will be treated by antibiotics.

There is guidance for parents on what to look for if children are unwell

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'

[UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Good infection control is essential - at home, in schools, and in healthcare: wash hands, cover faces with coughs and sneezes; for Group A strep infections it is recommended that people stay at home until 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

If you have queries about scarlet fever or Group A strep infections in your setting please contact North West London health protection unit at phe.nwl@nhs.net or 0203 326 1658
[Contacts: UKHSA health protection teams - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,



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