

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Information about Strep A

Many of you will be concerned by what you are seeing in the media about Strep A. The Local Authority are currently awaiting national advice before distributing formal guidance. In the meantime, we are providing the following information for you:

Although Strep A is highly contagious, it rarely causes serious illness. However, parents/carers should make themselves aware of the symptoms to look out for. Also, if you think your child has Strep A symptoms you should keep them off school and seek medical advice. Current advice is that children who are healthy and well, including siblings of those who have symptoms, are expected to continue to attend school.

There is useful information from the BBC News website at the following link: <u>What is Strep</u> <u>A and what are the symptoms to look out for?</u>

Strep A Checklist for Parents:

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 eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your child has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your child is very tired or irritable

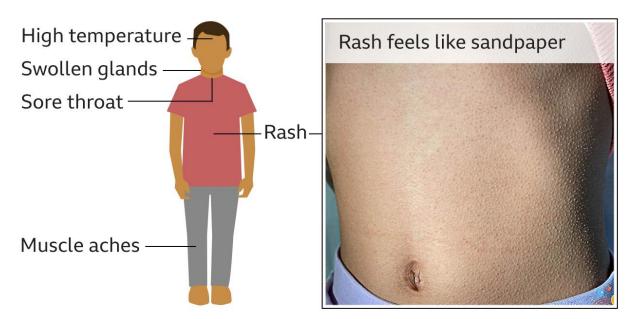
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Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- 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



Strep A: What to look for



Source: Don't Forget the Bubbles Skin Deep, BBC research

BBC

Further information can also be found at:

UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency (blog.gov.uk)

To put your mind at rest, please be assured that we have no reported cases of Strep A in the school, so it is important to stay calm, but to stay vigilant. I hope that this advice helps.

Best wishes

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