

Scarlet Fever

What is **Scarlet Fever**?



Scarlet fever is a disease caused by a bacteria group called streptococcus A, the same bacteria that causes strep throat. Scarlet fever is a rash that sometimes occurs in people that have strep throat. The rash of scarlet fever is usually seen in children under the age of 18.

What are the symptoms of **Scarlet fever**?

The most common symptoms of scarlet fever are:

- A rash first appears as tiny red bumps on the chest or abdomen. This rash may then spread all over the body. It looks like sunburn and feels like a rough piece of sandpaper. It is usually redder in the arm pits and groin areas. After the rash is gone, often the skin on the tips of the fingers and toes begins to peel.
- The face is flushed with a pale area around the lips.
- The throat is very red and sore. It can have white or yellow patches.
- A fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit (38.3 degrees Celsius or higher is common. Chills are often seen with the fever.

- Glands in the neck are often swollen.
- A whitish coating can appear on the surface of the tongue. The tongue itself looks like a strawberry because the normal bumps look bigger.
- Other less common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, headache and body aches.

How do you get it?

Scarlet fever can be caught from other people if you come in contact with the sick person because this germ is carried in the mouth and nasal fluids. If you touch your mouth, nose or eyes after touching something that has these fluids on them, you may become ill. Also, if you drink from the same glass or eat from the same plate as the sick person, you could also become ill. The best way to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands often and avoid sharing of utensils

What is the treatment for **Scarlet fever**?

If the swab test (throat culture) shows that there is streptococcus, an antibiotic prescription will be given. Give the medication as you are told. It is important to finish all of the medicine. The medication is not to be shared with family and friends. Ask your doctor or health care provider about over-the-counter medicine to lessen sore throat pain.