

STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTION (STREP THROAT/SCARLET FEVER)- strep throat and strep throat with a rash (scarlet fever) are common bacterial infections in children.

- **SYMPTOMS: Strep Throat-** Your child may have a sudden fever, red sore throat, headache, swollen glands, stomach pain and vomiting. **Scarlet Fever-** Rarely, a very fine raised rash appears at the same time as the throat soreness. The rash feels like sandpaper. The rash is most often on the neck, chest, elbow and groin and in the inner thigh and folds of the armpit. Later, the skin on the fingertips and toes may peel. If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 5 days for symptoms to start.
- **SPREAD:** Strep throat and scarlet fever are spread by coughing or sneezing.
- **CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** Your child is contagious until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins. Your child should stay at home for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins and fever, if present, is below 100 degrees without fever-reducing medications.
- **CALL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER:** Contact your provider if anyone in your home has symptoms. A provider may do a lab test and give antibiotics.
- **PREVENTION:** You should cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing by using your sleeve or tissue and properly dispose of the used tissue. Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with hand washing. Never share drink containers and cups or silverware. Wash all dishes with hot, soapy water between uses. Use a bacteria killing product to clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with the nose or mouth (especially mouthed toys).

(Source- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents or Guardians; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services- Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention)