

Dear Parents / Guardians,

A diagnosis of Scarlet Fever has been reported in your child's classroom. Scarlet Fever, or Scarletina, is caused by group A Streptococcus (bacteria). Although anyone can get Scarlet Fever, it usually affects children between 5 and 12 years of age. The classic symptom of the disease is a certain type of red rash that feels rough, like sandpaper. Illness usually begins with a sore throat and then one or two days after the illness begins the characteristic rash appears. This rash generally fades in about 7 days.

Signs and symptoms of Scarlet Fever may include:

- A very red, sore throat
- Fever of 101 degrees F or above
- Red rash with a sandpaper feel and possibly bright red skin in underarm, elbow and groin creases
- A whitish coating on the back of the throat or tongue
- A "strawberry-like" tongue (red and bumpy)
- Abdominal pain with possible nausea and vomiting
- Headache and body aches
- Swollen glands

How Scarlet Fever is spread:

- The bacteria are spread through contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze.
- Drinking from the same glass or sharing eating utensils with an infected person

Treatment of Scarlet Fever:

- Antibiotics are necessary to avoid possible, although rare, long term health problems and prevent further spread of the disease.
- Students should stay home from school for at least 24 hours AFTER starting antibiotics. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicines and feeling well before returning to school.

Home Management:

- Proper and frequent handwashing
- Avoid sharing eating utensils, linens, towels or other personal items
- Instruct children and family members to cough and sneeze into the elbow or forearm.

For any questions or further information, contact your school nurse or visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/ScarletFever/>

Thank you for your part in keeping our students healthy.