UK Health Security Agency

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Recent Case of Invasive Group A Streptococcus (GAS)

A child who attends your child's school has developed invasive Group A Streptococcal infection. Group A Streptococcus are bacteria that can be found in the throat and on the skin. People may carry Group A Streptococcus and have no symptoms of illness or may develop infection.

This letter gives you some information about the disease, including the signs and symptoms to look out for. There is no reason to make any changes in the school routine and no reason for children to be kept at home if well.

The most common Group A Streptococcal infections are mild: sore throats (strep throat), mild fever and minor skin infections (impetigo, scarlet fever). If your child has any of these **symptoms in the next 30 days** we advise that you take them (along with this letter) to see their GP. Their GP can arrange for the child to be **tested if necessary and then treated with antibiotics** if the GP thinks they have a Group A Streptococcal infection. If the GP thinks that the child has Group A Streptococcal infection, the child will need to remain off school for 24 hours following the start of the antibiotics.

In **very rare cases**, for example when chickenpox infection is also present, Group A streptococcal infection can be more serious and cause a more severe disease known as invasive Group A Streptococcus. Although the risk of another case of invasive disease in the school very small, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of invasive Group A Streptococcal infection, which are detailed below:

- High fever
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle pain
- Increasing pain, swelling and redness at site of wound
- Unexplained diarrhoea or vomiting

If someone in your family/household becomes ill with some of these signs or symptoms, please immediately attend A&E (with this letter) for emergency assessment.

Further information is available on the following websites:

- Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency (blog.gov.uk)
- Scarlet fever - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Health Protection Team
UK Health Security Agency