

## RISK ASSESSMENT FORM SCARLET FEVER

Location/Site: Woodlands School

Date of Assessment: 07/12/2022

Assessor(s): Donald Wykes

Reference: DWy/SF

### Scarlet Fever Summary

*Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by Streptococcus pyogenes (also known as group A Streptococcus [GAS]). These bacteria may be found on the skin, throat and other sites where they can live without causing problems. Under some circumstances GAS can cause non-invasive infections such as pharyngitis, impetigo and scarlet fever. On rare occasions they can cause severe disease, including streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, necrotising fasciitis, and septicaemia.*

*The symptoms of scarlet fever can be non-specific in early illness and may include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. Within 48 hours, a characteristic pinkish-red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture [6]. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'*

- *The incubation period is usually 2–3 days. People can be infectious for 2–3 weeks after the onset of symptoms, unless they are treated.*
- *It is highly contagious and is transmitted when a person's mouth, throat, or nose comes into contact with infected saliva or mucus by aerosol transmission or by direct contact.*
- *An outbreak is defined as 'a credible report of two or more probable or confirmed scarlet fever cases attending the same school or nursery or other childcare setting, notified within 10 days of each other (two maximum incubation periods), with an epidemiological link between cases, for example they are in the same class or year group*
- *Scarlet fever can occur at any age but is most common in children between 2–8 years*

*People who are at increased risk of invasive Group A streptococcal infection (iGAS) and complications include people:*

- *At extremes of the age range, such as the very young and old, or postpartum women. (The postpartum (or postnatal) period begins after childbirth and is typically considered to end within 6 weeks as the mother's body, including hormone levels and uterus size, returns to a non-pregnant state)*
- *Who are immunocompromised, immunosuppressed, or with other comorbidities.*
- *With concurrent chickenpox or influenza.*
- *Who inject drugs or are alcohol dependent.*

Source: UK Health Security Agency - National Institute for Health and care Excellence

**Links to Scarlet Fever Information:**

[Management of scarlet fever outbreaks in schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/103121/management_of_scarlet_fever_outbreaks_in_schools.pdf)

[Scarlet fever | Health topics A to Z | CKS | NICE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA504)

Activity/Task/ Situation	What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom	Action by when	Completed
Whole School Mitigate spread of Scarlet Fever Protect Pupils and Staff	Illness effects of Scarlet Fever	Young Children	Advise parents to take children with symptoms (such as fever, sore throat and rash) to their GP  Anyone with scarlet fever to stay away from school for 24 hours after starting antibiotics  Conduct a whole school campaign to remind pupils to wash hand washing and respiratory hygiene (catch it, kill it, bin it)	Notify the local HPT of suspected scarlet fever outbreaks aa per:  <b>Guidelines for the public health management of scarlet fever outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings October 2022</b>  <b>Completed Appendix 4 if an outbreak occurs in Woodlands School</b>	<b>Pupils Survives</b>  <b>Attendance Team</b>  <b>HOY's</b>  <b>HR Manager</b>	<b>Immediate</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
		New mothers	Notify members of staff who are new mothers not or visit the school within the first 6 weeks of postpartum				
		Children with concurrent chickenpox or influenza	Advise parents to take children chickenpox or influenzas with symptoms (such as fever, sore throat and rash) to their GP				
		People who are immunocompromised, immunosuppressed	Inform all Pupils and Staff if a case of Scarlet Fever is reported in school				