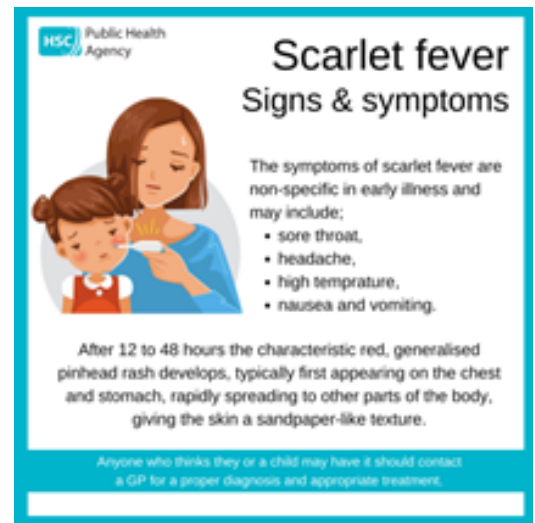


Latest information about Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

- Parents and carers and school staff should look out for early symptoms of scarlet fever in children which include sore throats, headaches, fever, nausea and vomiting.
- After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach and then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.
- The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present.
- Children will also typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth, which may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'.
- Parents should contact [NHS 111 online](#), or call NHS 111 or their GP if they suspect their child has scarlet fever, because early treatment with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications, such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.



Infection control advice

- GAS is spread by close contact with an infected person and can be passed on through coughs and sneezes or from a wound.
- Children should be encouraged to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.
- Any children with suspected scarlet fever should stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

These resources may be also helpful:

- [NHS information about Scarlet Fever](#)
- [NHS information called Is my child too ill for school?](#)
- [The UKHSA Group A Strep What You Need to Know blog](#)
- [UKHSA guidance on Scarlet Fever symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)