
Strep Throat

What is strep throat?

- An infection caused by bacteria.
- This infection is most common in children.

How does a person get strep throat?

- The bacteria can be spread from person to person by droplets in the air caused when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or by direct contact such as kissing, sharing lip gloss or drinks.
- If untreated this bacteria can spread for 2 to 3 weeks.

What are the signs and symptoms?

- Symptoms include a fever, sore throat, headache and sometimes swollen glands.
- Scarlet fever has the same symptoms as strep throat plus a red rash on the body. The rash feels like sandpaper.
- Scarlet fever rash often appears on the neck, chest and inner folds of arms, elbows, groin and thighs.

How is Strep throat treated?

- See your doctor for diagnosis and treatment.
- Improvement often occurs in 3 to 4 days without antibiotic treatment.
- Antibiotics may shorten the duration of the illness, and reduce the frequency of complications (such as rheumatic fever).

How is Strep throat prevented?

- Good handwashing reduces spread.
- A person with symptoms should not return to child care, school or work until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

Quick Facts

- is a bacterial infection
- common in children
- may cause a rash
- is sometimes treated with antibiotics

For more information contact your doctor
or Population and Public at **306-655-4612**
