



Streptococcal Sore Throat and Scarlet Fever

Additional Information:

Scarlet fever is the result of a toxin produced by certain kinds of streptococcal bacteria. Treatment is usually the same as for “strep throat.”

Streptococcal bacteria are responsible for other infections such as impetigo, and ear infections.

If started on treatment, it must be completed, as some children may develop more serious complications affecting the ear, lung, sinuses, kidneys or heart (rheumatic heart disease).

Resources

- [ADHS Sore Throat & Scarlet Fever Fact Sheet](#)
- [CDC Sore Throat](#)
- [CDC Scarlet Fever](#)

Strep Throat: Red, sore throat, fever, listlessness, swollen glands, nausea, stomach pain, swollen tonsils, and headache.

Scarlet Fever: As above, with a rash on the neck, face and underarm then spreading to all parts of the body including the hands and feet. The rash typically starts as small, flat blotches and then becomes sandpaper-like fine bumps. The rash clears in about 1 week and peeling of the skin is common. Fever often 101°F or above.

Incubation Period	Unknown
Contagious Period	If untreated, 10-21 days. If treated with antibiotics, contagious period generally ends within 12 hours.

Recommended Actions

Isolate, exclude and refer to health care provider for diagnosis and treatment.

Cases:

Exclude cases until they have been treated with antibiotics for 24 hours.

Contacts:

None

Please see [Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-372](#) for specific language.

If you have questions please call public health for assistance and recommendations.

Transmission

Transmission occurs by contact with secretions from the nose, mouth, and throat of an infected individual. These secretions may be on surfaces or in infected droplets in the air.

Prevention

Proper [hand hygiene](#).