

## **Group A streptococcus (Strep A)**

Kelly O'Neill, Director for Public Health has shared the following information with schools:

In most cases the common infections caused by Group A streptococcus are mild.

They include a sore throat, often referred to as strep throat, mild fever, and minor skin infections.

In very rare cases, this infection can be more serious and cause invasive disease.

Whilst the risk is low, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms.

These are:

- Very high fever
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle pain
- Unexplained diarrhoea or vomiting

**If someone becomes ill with these symptoms, you should call NHS 111.**

The UKHSA has advised that there were no reasons for any changes to the school routine and no reason for children to be kept at home if they are well.

You can find more information at NHS Choices, here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/streptococcal-infections/pages/introduction.aspx>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/group-a-streptococcal-infections-guidance-and-data>

### **Prevention Tips**

- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not drink from the same glass, eat from the same plate, or share utensils with someone who is sick.
- If you have strep throat, stay home from work, school, or daycare until you no longer have a fever and have taken antibiotics for at least 12 hours. This will help keep others from getting sick.