



## South Tyneside Council

Dear Head Teacher/ Manager,

Please find attached the latest guidance from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regarding **scarlet fever and Strep A infections**. As you are aware we are seeing scarlet fever cases increase in line with expectations for this time of year. Scarlet fever is common, typically mild, and treated with antibiotics. Children or staff with scarlet fever should stay off the setting/ school until 24 hours after their first dose of antibiotics and they feel well enough to return. There is no need to notify the UKHSA Health Protection Team of small numbers of cases unless there is co-circulating illness or where there are a high number of cases with children who have underlying health conditions. See the letter for details of **when to contact the Health Protection Team**.

Severe Cases of **Invasive group a strep (IGAS)** are rare, and usually diagnosed following an admission to hospital, where they will notify the Health Protection Team. It is unlikely any action will need to be taken by a setting/ school. However if there was any actions required the health protection team would contact the setting/ school.

As there are many winter illness there are key things the setting/ schools can do; such as reminding staff and children to stay at home when they are unwell, encourage good hand hygiene, and keeping the environment clean. See the attached letter for more details.

The management of illness in school and other childcare settings can be accessed using the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

We understand parents/carers will be anxious so please signpost them to the link below for more information about scarlet fever. There is no need to inform parents/carers of cases in the setting/ school, but you may want to raise general awareness and management of winter illnesses. You may wish to share the winter illness leaflet with parents/carers (also attached).

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

We will share any further updates with you as and when we receive them, and please be aware of any updates coming to the setting/ schools direct from DfE.

If you have any specific concerns about at risk children, high levels of cases or an outbreak, or do hear of any children being admitted to hospital please contact the Health Protection Team on **0300 303 8596**

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Scanlon'.

Beverley Scanlon  
Head of Learning and Early Help

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Hall'.

Tom Hall  
Director of Public Health