



Public Health
England

Public Health England South East
H10W Health Protection Team
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Date: 27/06/2019

Dear Parent / Guardian and/or Staff,

We have been informed that a number of children who attend Bransgore Primary School have been recently unwell with symptoms suggestive of infection with Group A streptococcus bacteria. (GAS)

These bacteria are commonly associated with mild illnesses like sore throats and scarlet fever. They are treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

If you think your child has scarlet fever or has a sore throat with fever and pain: • see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible • make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor. • stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

Although complications are rare, some children can develop more serious infection so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately. If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anand Fernandes

Consultant in Health Protection