

Carole Furlong  
Director of Public Health

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Dear Parents in Harrow,

### Group A Streptococcal Infection

You may have seen in the news that nationally there have been deaths in children from invasive Group A Streptococcal infection since September [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). We are sharing information on Group A Streptococcal infections.

The most common infections caused by Group A Streptococcal are mild:

- sore throats (strep throat)
- fever
- scarlet fever
- minor skin infections.

Further information is available at NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/sore-throat/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sore-throat/) or [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk). Scarlet fever will look different on darker skin. You can see alternative photographs here [Scarlet fever - Skin Deep \(dftbskindeep.com\)](http://dftbskindeep.com). These infections will be treated by antibiotics.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

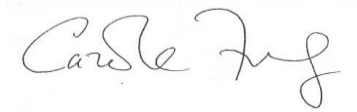
Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Good infection control is essential - at home, in schools, and in healthcare: wash hands for at least 20 seconds, cover faces when coughing or sneezing.

For Group A Streptococcal infections, it is recommended that people stay at home until 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Clothes, bedding and towels should be washed in the hottest temperature allowable for the fabric.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole Furlong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and 'F'.

Carole Furlong  
**Director of Public Health**