



CARCLAZE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL – AN ACADEMY

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'Care Communicate Persevere Sparkle'

Dear Parent/Carer

Strep A and Scarlet Fever Update – Carclaze School

You are likely to already be aware of the recent news stories regarding Strep A & Scarlet Fever. We would like to take this opportunity to write to you as a precautionary measure to give you further information about these illnesses and the latest guidance we have received today from the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England).

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others. Investigations are underway following reports of an increase in lower respiratory tract Group A strep infections in children over the past few weeks, which have caused severe illness.

Currently, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. The increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing. There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion, develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell. Actions to take if your child is unwell. 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

www.celtrust.org

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- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable
- 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

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

We will also be encouraging increased handwashing and sanitising, surfaces and equipment will be cleaned as often as in school, reducing the risk of spreading illnesses amongst pupils.

For further information please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Yours sincerely



Mr Simon Pollard
Head Teacher

