**Scarlet Fever Information for Parents**

**Scarlet fever is contagious** and would ask if you could watch out for the following symptoms.

There is an exclusion period for this which is five days after starting antibiotics.

It can be caught by breathing in bacteria in airborne droplets from an infected person's coughs and sneezes.

Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that causes a distinctive pink-red rash and feels like sandpaper to touch.

It may start in one area, but soon spreads to many parts of the body, such as the ears, neck and chest. The rash may be itchy.

Someone with scarlet fever will develop a flushed, red face – hence the name scarlet fever – although the skin around the mouth stays white. The tongue may look a bit like a strawberry.

Other symptoms include [swollen neck glands](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/swollen-glands/Pages/Introduction.aspx), especially if you generally feel unwell.

Symptoms usually develop one to four days after a person is infected.

Scarlet fever usually follows a [sore throat](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sore-throat/Pages/Introduction.aspx) or a skin infection (called [impetigo](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/impetigo/Pages/Introduction.aspx)) that is caused by particular strains of streptococcus bacteria.

Thank you for your co-operation

The management team