

WE HAVE A CASE OF **SCARLET FEVER** AT CIS

CONTAGIOUSNESS

Scarlet fever is caused by an infection from group A *streptococcus* bacteria.

The bacterial infection that causes scarlet fever is contagious. A child who has scarlet fever can spread the bacteria to others through nasal and throat fluids by sneezing and coughing – airborne.

Incubation time is 1 - 7 days.

SYMPTOMS

The first symptom is often a reddened sore throat.

Other symptoms can be fever, swollen glands in the neck, chills, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite.

The rash is the most striking sign of scarlet fever. It usually begins looking like a bad sunburn with tiny bumps and it may itch. The rash usually appears first on the neck and face, often leaving a clear unaffected area around the mouth. It spreads to the chest and back, then to the rest of the body. In body creases, especially around the underarms and elbows, the rash forms classic red streaks. Areas of rash usually turn white when you press on them.

By the sixth day of the infection the rash usually fades

One to two weeks after the affected skin may begin to peel, especially on hands and feet.

TREATMENT:

If the doctor suspects scarlet fever, he/she will usually take a throat culture. If positive they will prescribe an antibiotic for your child to be taken for about 10 days.

PRECAUTIONS:

The child may return to school after he/she feels well and has had two days of antibiotic treatment

If you have any concerns or questions please contact the School Health Nurse.