

Scarlet Fever & Group A Strep outbreak management webinar for education and early years settings

12th December 2022

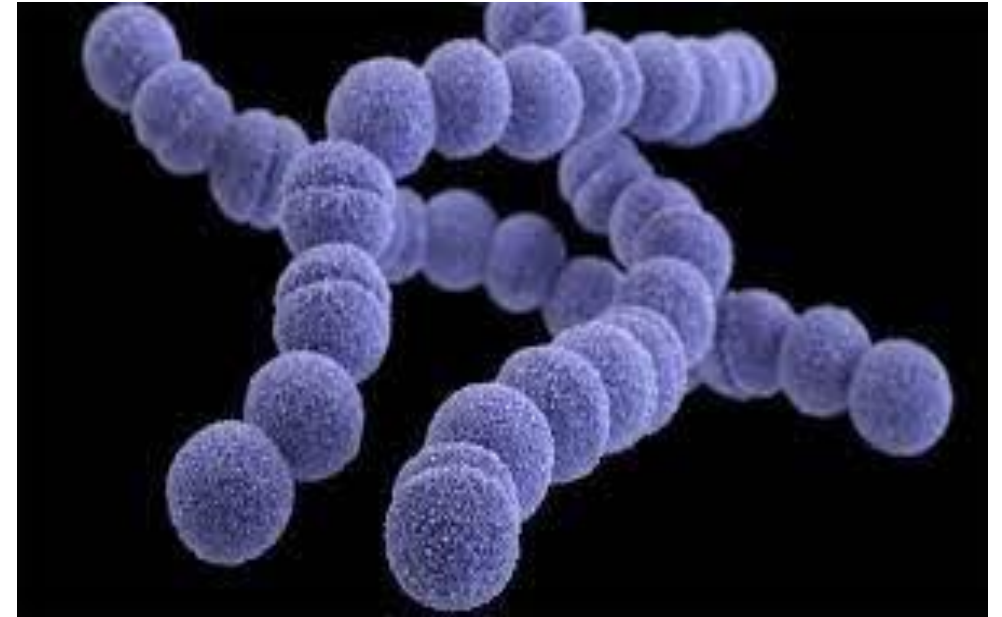
Agenda



Welcome, introductions and aims of webinar	Matt Olley – Public Health Consultant Alison Challenger – Director of Public Health
Scarlet Fever and GAS outbreak management in education and early years settings	Jill Hendey – Lead Health Protection Nurse, UK Health Security Agency – SouthEast
Questions	UKHSA, WSCC PH

Group A Streptococcus - Terminology

- **Group A Streptococcus[cocci]/Grp A Strep/GAS** – a very common bacteria of the skin and throat that often cause localised infections eg, bacterial throat infection (Strep throat), impetigo and cellulitis
- **Scarlet Fever/Scarletina** – a usually mild but very infectious childhood infection caused by GAS
- **Invasive Grp A Strep/iGAS** – a rare complication of GAS where the bacteria enters the bloodstream and causes serious systemic infection



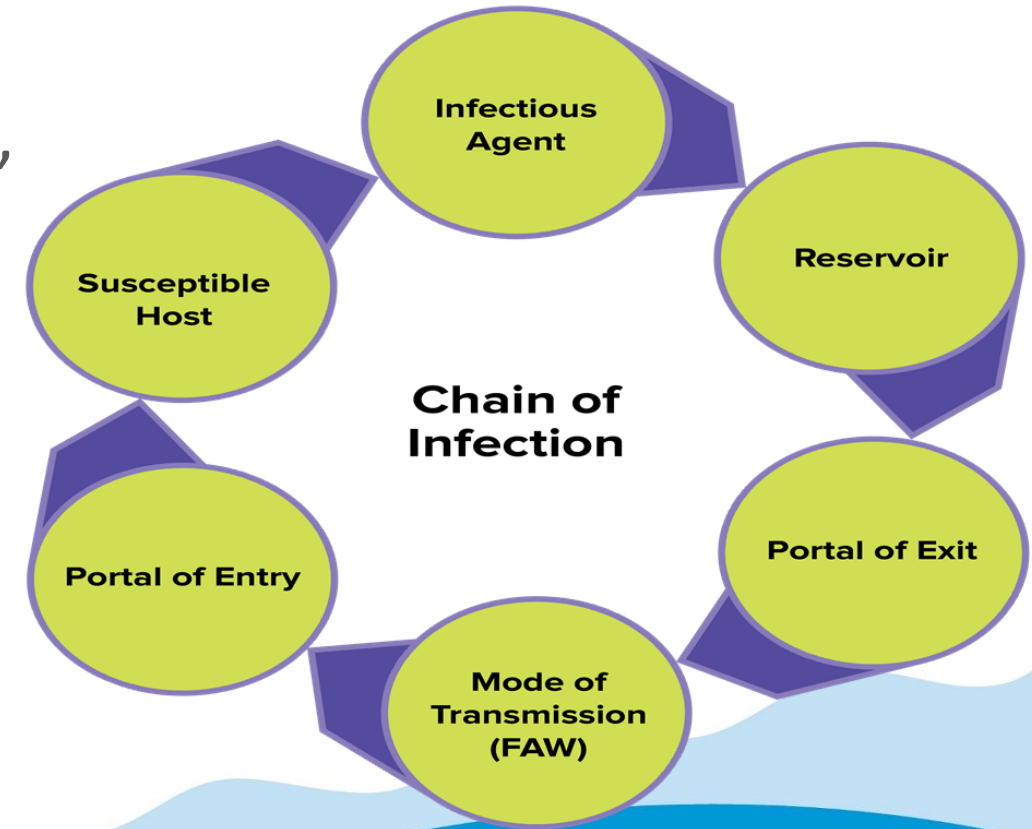
Scarlet Fever/Scarletina

- Cases usually peak in spring
- Almost always associated with sore throat
 - Red, rough rash
 - ‘Strawberry tongue’
 - Fever
 - Swollen/tender glands in neck
 - Often starts with flu like symptoms
- Duration - ~1 week
- Incubation – 2-5 days
- Treated with antibiotics (24 hrs - return to setting, 3 weeks exclusion without)
- Can lead to other serious conditions if not treated correctly (e.g. rheumatic fever)
- Notifiable infection



IPC - General

- Droplet transmission – direct person to person contact and fomites
- Hand hygiene – hand wash or gel
- Respiratory hygiene – covering mouth/nose, disposal of tissues, hand hygiene
- Cleaning – touch points, shared items (consider ease of cleaning, reducing access)
- Early treatment reduces the risk of complications and onward transmission
- Does not affect unborn child



Outbreak Management of Scarlet Fever



- Definition of an outbreak: 2+ cases of scarlet fever in the same class or a specific close mixing group within 10-day period.
 - [Follow the outbreak management guidance for scarlet fever cases in schools & early years settings](#)
- Only contact the UKHSA Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3861 for advice if:
 - Any child or staff member is seriously unwell and admitted to hospital with Group A Strep (GAS) infection (or there is a death) because this is indicative of invasive disease.
 - The Scarlet Fever outbreak continues for over 3 weeks, despite taking steps to control it **and** you are concerned that case numbers are still rising.
 - You are an SEN setting **and** are experiencing an outbreak of scarlet fever in a class that provides care or education to children who are clinically vulnerable.

Outbreak Management Action Card



Exclusion: Suspected cases of scarlet fever should be excluded until 24 hrs after the commencement antibiotic treatment.

Contacts: Who are well and do not have symptoms do not require antibiotics and can continue to attend the setting.

Communication set by setting in outbreak

1. 2+ confirm cases of scarlet fever in a class –

- ❖ send letter 1 to affected class(es)

2. 2+ suspected/confirmed cases and at least 1 case of suspected flu in a class

- ❖ send letter 2 to affected class(es)

3. 2+ suspected/confirmed cases of scarlet fever and at least 1 case of suspected chickenpox in a class

❖ Send letter 3 to affected class(es)

- Send warn and inform letter, including scarlet fever fact sheet to wider school community in any of the above scenarios.

Closures: It is not necessary to close the school on public health ground, unless there are operational reasons.

Outbreak Declared Over: No new cases of scarlet fever 10 days after the last case

- No specific actions required for other Group A Strep infections such as sore throats.
 - ❖ If prescribed antibiotics for a sore throat, excluded for 24hrs after starting antibiotic treatment.
- Impetigo - Exclude individual until all lesions (sores or blisters) are crusted over or until 48 hrs after commencing antibiotic treatment.
- Scarlet fever is a droplet spread illness, so reinstate a similar cleaning regimes to what was undertaken with covid-19, as well as maintaining regular hand washing and respiratory hygiene is recommended at all times.
- If an outbreak in a defined class or group is continuing beyond 2 weeks, please review your infection control measures.
- As throughout the covid-19 pandemic if you need health protection guidance please contact publichealth@westsussex.gov.uk

Opening the floor for Questions

