

Scarlet Fever

Description: Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness, that mainly affect children under 10 and causes a distinctive pink-red rash.



Symptoms:

The symptoms of Scarlet Fever usually take 2-5 days to appear after infection and symptoms include:

- Sore throat, headaches and a high temperature
- Flushed cheeks/face and a swollen tongue

A few days later, you will experience:

- A pinkish rash appears, normally on the chest and stomach before spreading to other areas such as the ears and neck
- The rash will feel like sandpaper to touch and may be itchy. On darker skin, the rash may be more difficult to see, but the texture will still be apparent.
- Swollen neck glands, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting
- Red lines in the folds of the body, such as the armpit. These may still be visible after the rash has gone.
- White coating on the surface of the tongue, which then peels and leaves the tongue red and swollen.

How is it spread?

- Breathing in the bacteria in airborne droplets from an infected person's coughs and sneezes.
- Touching the infected skin of a person with the streptococcal bacteria (such as impetigo)
- Sharing contaminated towels, clothes, bed linen.

How long is it infectious?

- It is infectious for at least 24 hours after starting a course of antibiotics. Without antibiotic treatment it will remain infectious for 1-2 weeks after the symptoms appear.

How long should my child stay home from school?

Your child should stay away from school for at least 24hrs after starting a course of antibiotics.

