



What is scarlet fever?

- Scarlet fever is a rash that sometimes occurs in people infected with group A *Streptococcus*, which are the bacteria that cause strep throat (streptococcal pharyngitis) or, less commonly, a skin infection. The rash of scarlet fever is usually seen in children under the age of 18.

What are the symptoms?

- Tiny red bump rash on the chest and abdomen, then spreading over the body. It looks like a sunburn and feels like a piece of sandpaper
- Flushed face, pale around the lips
- Fever of 101 degrees or higher is common with strep throat
- The throat is very red and sore, often with white or yellow patches
- Swollen neck glands
- Tongue looks like a strawberry because the normal bumps are bigger
- Occasionally nausea and vomiting

How is it spread?

- By direct contact with discharge from coughing, sneezing or talking to infected people or carriers
- Illness usually appears 2 – 5 days after contact
- The rash is not contagious

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation and laboratory cultures for strep throat
- Strep throat is treated with oral antibiotics
- Treatment for scarlet fever is aimed at relief of symptoms

Can it be prevented?

- Wash hands frequently
- Cough or sneeze into tissue and promptly dispose of it
- Do not share eating utensils

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- Yes. Exclude from school/childcare until 24 hours after beginning treatment
- Exclude until fever has returned to normal for at least 24 hours without medication

When can the individual return to the general population?

- Strep throat – after evaluation by physician and under antibiotic treatment for 24 hours
- Scarlet fever - rash is not contagious, so the individual may return when he/she feels well enough

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017