

## **Group A Streptococcus (Group A Strep)**

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### **What is it?**

- It is a germ (bacteria) that can be found in the nose and throat of children and adults without causing illness.
- It can cause different diseases such as ear infections, strep throat, scarlet fever and impetigo.
- It can also cause more serious illness such as necrotizing fasciitis or “flesh eating disease”.
- Symptoms vary from mild to severe:
  - sore throat
  - fever
  - feeling unwell
  - rash
  - sore on the skin
  - high fever
  - severe pain
  - swelling and redness
  - change in skin colour

### **How is it spread?**

- May spread with direct contact with the saliva (spit) and nasal discharges of an infected person such as sharing water bottles, cigarettes and mouthpieces from instruments.
- Can also be spread by touching (direct contact) sores on the skin.
- Casual contact rarely leads to infection.

## Is there treatment for it?

- Antibiotics may be needed.
- More serious infections may be treated in hospital.

Close contacts such as family members of people with serious infections may need to take antibiotics to prevent disease.

## What can be done to prevent the spread of it?

- Do not share personal items such as cutlery, drinking glasses.
- Do not touch sores or lesions.
- Cover sores and wounds.
- Clean your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Complete all antibiotics as prescribed by your doctor.

## For more information visit:

Public Health Agency of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/group-a-streptococcal-diseases.html>

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/groupAstrep/index.html>

**Adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures by staff and visitors is required to prevent further spread of infection.**

**Stop the spread of germs and infection.  
Clean your hands.**



This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask Infection Prevention & Control or your health care provider.