**Strep Throat (Strep Tonsillitis)**

There has been a case of Strep throat in your child’s classroom and your child may have been exposed. We are bringing this to your attention because untreated infections can sometimes lead to complications.

**What is Strep throat?**It is a sore throat caused by the group A streptococcus bacteria. Occasionally it can cause kidney or heart complications. Prompt treatment with an antibiotic usually prevents these complications. Treatment will also prevent it spreading to others.

**What are the symptoms of Strep throat?**The symptoms can include:

* A very sore throat (like swallowing barbed wire)
* A high temperature
* Chills – shaking with a high temperature
* Swollen and tender neck glands
* Headache and stomach ache may also happen

**What should I do if I think my child has it?**If you child develops any of these symptoms bring him/her to your doctor for examination. Tell the doctor that another child in school has strep throat. A simple throat swab can tell if your child needs treatment.

**If my child has Strep throat what should I do then?**The doctor will prescribe an antibiotic for your child. It is important that the child takes the full course of medicine.

**Can my child go to school?**The child can return to school when they have finished one full day of the antibiotic. This is necessary to prevent the spread of infection to others.

**Can other members of the family get it?**Yes.

**What can I do to prevent the spread of Strep throat?**Streptococcus bacteria is spread through the contact with nose and mouth secretions. To reduce the risk of infection:

* Wash hands thoroughly after wiping nose.
* Wash hands thoroughly before preparing or eating food
* Wash dishes well in hot soapy water
* Do not share cups, straws, spoons, eating utensils etc
* Do not share toothbrushes

Your doctor will be able to answer any further questions that you might have concerning Strep throat or other streptococcus infections.