



Scoil Náisiúnta Bhantiarna Lourdes

“Mol an óige ‘is tiocfaidh sí”

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11th October 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

There has been a case of scarlet fever in the school and your child may have been exposed. We are bringing this to your attention because occasionally if a child develops scarlet fever that is not promptly treated, complications can occur.

What is scarlet fever?

Scarlet fever is a diffuse red rash and fever (hence the name) caused by the group *Astreptococcus* (strep) bacteria. This is the same bacteria that can cause strep throat. However, sometimes the bacteria makes a toxin that also causes a red rash. Occasionally this bacteria can cause kidney (glomerulonephritis) or heart (rheumatic fever) complications. Prompt treatment with an antibiotic usually prevents these complications. Treatment will also prevent spread to others.

What are the symptoms of scarlet fever?

A diffusely red rash that is often most marked in the creases of the joints and over the abdomen. It usually blanches on pressure. The skin may feel rough to the touch, sometimes described as feeling like sandpaper. Someone with scarlet fever will have evidence of a strep infection somewhere, usually in the throat or sometimes on the skin.

What should I do if I think my child has it?

If your child develops any of these symptoms bring him/her to your doctor for examination. Tell the doctor that another child in school has strep infection.

If my child has strep what I 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. 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?

Strep is spread through contact with nose and mouth secretions so:

- 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.

Thank you for giving this your attention. Your family doctor will be able to answer any further questions that you might have concerning scarlet fever or other strep infections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Roberts".

(James Roberts, Principal)

The font used in this letter is called 'Dyslexie.' It has been shown to reduce errors in reading by pupils with dyslexia. The school now uses this font for all correspondence.