



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health
Ref: EE 177206

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Westlands Primary School
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 1XN
8th May, 2017

To Parents and staff,

Re: Suspected Scarlet Fever Outbreak at Westlands Primary School, Sittingbourne. ME10 1XN

Public Health England has been informed that some children in the school have recently been diagnosed with scarlet fever infection.

Scarlet fever is an infection caused by streptococcal bacteria. The symptoms are a sore throat, rash, fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes in neck and decreased appetite. The rash, usually on the neck and chest, can feel like sandpaper but may not always be present.

Scarlet fever is mainly a childhood disease and is most common between the ages of two and eight years. Adults can also catch scarlet fever, but the disease is much less common in adults.

Scarlet fever is highly contagious. The bacteria are carried in the saliva and mucus in the nose. The disease is spread by sneezing, coughing, or breathing out. It takes around two to five days to develop symptoms after being infected.

Antibiotics cure the infection rapidly so serious consequences of the infection are now very rare. If your child is found to have scarlet fever, they will need treatment with antibiotics and will need to be off school/nursery until at least 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment and the fever is gone.

If you think your child has scarlet fever, you should consult your GP. Please remember to take this letter with you.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Ekong
Health Protection Practitioner (Kent)
Public Health England South East

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