



## **STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS (Strep Throat)**

Date:

Dear Parent:

A child in day care has been diagnosed with a **Streptococcal infection**. Group A streptococci are bacteria commonly found in the throat and on the skin. The vast majority of GAS infections are relatively mild illnesses, such as strep throat and impetigo.

Symptoms of strep throat infections may include severe sore throat, fever, headache, and swollen glands. If not treated, strep infections can lead to scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, skin, bloodstream, ear infections, and pneumonia.

Strep throat is easily spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes contaminated droplets into the air and another person inhales them. A person can also get infected from touching these secretions and then touching their mouth or nose. The risk of spread is greatest when an individual is ill, such as when people have strep throat or an infected wound.

Children diagnosed with a streptococcal infection are excluded from childcare until the fever is gone or after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. If your child shows signs of streptococcal infection, have him/her evaluated by a physician.

To prevent the spread of illness, practice good hand washing after coughing and sneezing; before and after preparing foods or eating; or coming into contact with persons diagnosed with a streptococcal infection.

If you have any questions, please call your Health District.