

Information about Strep Throat:



What is strep throat?

Strep throat is a sore throat caused by streptococcus bacteria that are passed around through nose and mouth droplets. It is very common in children. Most sore throats however, are caused by viruses and are not treated with antibiotics.

Why is it important that your child received treatment?

1. Treatment reduces spread. If not treated or not treated long enough, your child may continue to spread the infection to other members of your family or to other children.
2. Treatment with antibiotics can usually prevent rheumatic fever. Rarely, some children with strep throat later develop rheumatic fever causing abnormalities of the heart valves and inflammation of the joints.
3. Treatment will also prevent other rare, but possibly dangerous complications.

When can your child come back to school?

Your child can return after taking antibiotics for at least 24 hours and any fever is gone.

What should you do to prevent the spread of strep throat?

1. Thoroughly wash your hands and your child's hands after wiping noses and before eating or preparing food.
2. Wash dishes carefully in hot, soapy water or a dishwasher.
3. Do not allow children to share cups, spoons, or toys that are put in the mouth.
4. Do not allow sharing of food.