

Strep Throat (Group A Streptococcal Disease)



What is strep throat?

Strep throat is an infection in the throat and tonsils caused by the bacteria called group A *Streptococcus* (group A strep).

How is strep throat transmitted?

People infected with strep throat spread the disease through respiratory droplets produced from coughing, talking, or sneezing. It usually takes 2-5 days for someone exposed to strep throat to become ill.

How can we prevent strep throat?

The best way to prevent strep throat is to wash your hands often, especially after coughing or sneezing and before eating or preparing foods. Other ways to prevent transmission of strep throat include coughing/sneezing into a tissue, or into your elbow if a tissue is not available.

How are strep throat infections treated?

Strep throat is treated with antibiotics prescribed by a doctor. Quick diagnosis and treatment of strep throat can decrease the length and severity of the illness, which in turn helps prevent the bacteria from spreading to others. People with strep throat should stay home from work, school or daycare until they no longer have a fever **and** have taken antibiotics for at least 12 hours.

Signs and Symptoms of Strep Throat

Usually include:	Typically do not include:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sore throat starts quickly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cough
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pain when swallowing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Runny nose
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fever	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hoarseness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiny red spots on the roof of the mouth	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swollen lymph nodes in the front of the neck	

CDC

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/diseases-public/strep-throat.html



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