



**Message from Director of Public Health Professor Matt Ashton: Scarlet fever**

We are seeing a rise in cases of scarlet fever in Liverpool. Like many common infections, we saw few cases during lockdown but cases are now rising again, mainly affecting young children. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness but can be serious if left untreated. It can be treated easily with antibiotics. It spreads very easily through coughing and sneezing.

The first signs are flu-like symptoms such as a high temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands. A bumpy rough feeling rash usually appears after 12 to 48 hours on the chest and tummy.

If you think your child may have scarlet fever, contact your local GP or NHS111 for advice.

If the doctor prescribes antibiotics, take the full course. Stay away from nursery, school or work for 24 hours after taking the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of antibiotics.

To prevent spread, please encourage your child to wash their hands often with soap and water, and use tissues to cover coughs and sneezes. Put used tissues quickly in the bin.

For further information on scarlet fever visit the [NHS website](#).