

December 9th, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There have been several confirmed cases of Strep Throat in the school. Information concerning the signs and symptoms of Strep and methods of treatment are listed below.

If you suspect that your child is experiencing the symptoms of Strep Throat please contact your physician so that a diagnosis can be made. All positive cases of Strep Throat need to be reported to the school office so that we may keep other parents informed of the "health" situation of their child's classroom.

### **Signs and Symptoms**

If your child has strep throat, he or she will likely have throat pain and difficulty swallowing. But this isn't always the case. In fact, it's possible to have a strep throat infection without a sore throat. In general, however, signs and symptoms of strep throat include:  
Red and swollen tonsils. Tonsils are specialized lymph nodes located on either side of your throat, just behind and above your tongue. Sometimes you may see white streaks or patches of pus on the tonsils. Your child's tonsils also may have a gray or white coating.

- Swollen, tender lymph glands on the side of your child's neck.
- Fever.
- Headache.
- Muscle aches.
- Stomach ache and possibly vomiting, especially in smaller children.

Your child may have many of these signs and symptoms but not have strep throat. In fact, these symptoms could be signs of a sore throat caused by a virus, tonsillitis or other illnesses. That's why your doctor may test your child specifically for strep throat.

Sometimes symptoms can occur even after your child has finished treatment for strep throat. Call your doctor if your child develops a fever — or has pain or swelling in the joints, shortness of breath or a rash — 1 to 6 weeks after a strep infection. These may be signs of rheumatic fever.

### **Treatment**

If your child has strep throat, your pediatrician will likely prescribe an oral antibiotic. Once treatment begins, you can expect your child to start feeling better in just a day or two. But make sure your child finishes the entire course of medicine. If your child feels well enough, he or she will be able to return to school or day-care after being treated with an antibiotic for 24 hours. If you have and questions or concerns you may contact me at 582-5350 extension 4.

Sincerely,

Becky Hyett R.N. CSN  
School Nurse  
Mercer County Community School District #404