

Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation Administration  
Division of Epidemiology – Disease Surveillance and Investigation

February 12, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The District of Columbia Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology – Disease Surveillance and Investigation has received a confirmed report of “**Scarlet Fever**” also known as “**Scarlatina**” in a child attending **Brent Elementary School**.

Scarlet Fever is an infection that is caused by a bacterium called *Group A Streptococcus*. This is the same bacterium that causes Strep Throat. The disease can occur in people of all ages but is most commonly seen in children five to 15 years old. It can be spread through contact with respiratory droplets from the mouth and the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Common symptoms of Scarlet Fever are rash (sandpaper feeling red rash), fever and sore throat. Some people may also have headache, nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. The rash usually appears on the chest, abdomen and may spread to the face.

*Group A Streptococcus* can spread easily to other people, so it is important to take steps to prevent outbreaks. It is recommended to keep your child out of school if you think he or she is sick with scarlet fever and to make sure he or she is evaluated by a healthcare provider. To prevent the spread of the disease, everyone should wash their hands frequently with soap and water and cover their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.

If you or anyone in your family has had or develops any of these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider to obtain a medical evaluation. **Children with confirmed streptococcal infection may return to school 24 hours after antibiotics treatment has started and they no longer have a fever (if applicable) . Proof (e.g. picture of medication, tube or bottle of medication, etc.) indicating that appropriate treatment has been initiated must be submitted upon return to school.**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse at **(202) 698-3367**, or your healthcare provider. We have also attached a fact sheet with frequently asked questions to provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,



John O. Davies-Cole, PhD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist