

IPC GUIDANCE ON GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS (GAS) INFECTIONS FOR PRIMARY CARE

Group A streptococcus (GAS) is a common bacteria which can colonise the throat, skin and anogenital tract. GAS can cause a range of infections of the skin, soft tissue and respiratory tract; such as:

- tonsillitis
- pharyngitis
- [scarlet fever](#)
- [impetigo](#)
- erysipelas
- cellulitis
- pneumonia

However GAS can in very rare circumstances cause more severe infections known as invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS); where the infection can affect sterile areas, such as: the lungs or blood stream, which can lead to SEPSIS.

Both iGAS and Scarlet fever are [notifiable diseases](#).

GAS can be spread through close contact between individuals by:

- respiratory droplets
- direct skin contact

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

It is essential that standard infection prevention and control precautions are implemented to minimise the spread of GAS.

- Maintain good hand hygiene standards
- Maintain good respiratory hygiene practices
- Ensure regular cleaning of the environment, including touch points
- Maintain good ventilation
- Wear PPE, including FRSM



RESOURCES

NHSE National Infection Control Manual for England - [C1691-National-infection-prevention-and-control-manual-v-2-3-28102022.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

UKHSA Group A streptococcal infections: guidance and data - [Group A streptococcal infections: guidance and data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

UKHSA iGAS stakeholder communications support pack v 1.2



UKHSA iGAS
stakeholder communi

MHRA CAS Alert – UKHSA – Urgent public health message: Invasive Group A Strep



CAS Alert - UKHSA -
Urgent public health r

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