

Strep Throat

Your child has been diagnosed as having strep throat. While most sore throats are viral, about 10% of sore throats are caused by a bacterium called streptococcus. The treatment of strep throat can prevent some rare but serious complications, namely rheumatic fever (heart disease). Untreated, these complications can occur although the sore throat will go away by itself without treatment. Appropriate treatment usually eliminates the sore throat and fever within 24 hours.

Your child has been given an antibiotic to treat strep throat. Within 24 to 48 hours, your child should be feeling better. **Make sure to take the full course of the prescribed medicine.** If your child still has a sore throat after 48 hours, you may need to come back and repeat the strep test. In rare cases, if the test is still positive, a different antibiotic will be prescribed.

It is also important to remember that strep infections can reoccur. So, if your child gets a sore throat again 2 to 3 days after the antibiotic is completed, a strep test must be repeated. If this test is positive, a different antibiotic will be prescribed.

Strep is contagious and your child should stay home from school for 24 hours after starting the antibiotic. The incubation period for strep is 2 to 5 days so, if another child in the family gets a sore throat, please contact our office for an appointment.

Remember:

- Just because your child has a sore throat, it does not mean it is a strep throat.
- Do not give antibiotics until a diagnosis has been made.
- Strep tests are usually negative after 15 to 24 hours of antibiotics.
- We will be unable to accurately diagnose your child if any antibiotics are taken before a strep test can be completed.

**YOU MAY WANT TO REPLACE YOUR CHILD'S TOOTHBRUSH AFTER
TAKING THE ANTIBIOTIC FOR 24 HOURS.**

If you have any questions, please call the office at (281) 499-6300