



# Duanesburg Central School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

October 21, 2009

Strep throat is circulating through the school. Below you will find some general information so that you are familiar with the signs/symptoms and can hopefully help in preventing the spread of the disease. Please read it over and call me if you have any questions.  
Thank You.

Joanne Newsome, RN  
895-5350 Ext.240

## **STREP THROAT**

Strep throat and scarlet fever (strep throat with a rash) are caused by the bacterium group A streptococcus. This organism is spread by contact with secretions from the mouth and nose of infected persons. The incubation period is usually between two to five days. Children are contagious (able to spread the bacteria) until 24 hours after the antibiotic treatment is begun. **Your child should not return to school until they have received an antibiotic for the 24 hours and are feeling well enough to be in school.**

## **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:**

Signs and symptoms may include **sore throat, fever, swollen glands below the jaw and neck, and pus on tonsils. Sometimes there is a fine, red, sandpapery rash (scarletina/scarlet fever). Vomiting, stomach pain and headache may also accompany it.**

## **TREATMENT:**

If you suspect strep throat, keep your child at home and contact your physician who will perform a throat culture to determine whether the streptococcal bacteria is present. Children exposed to strep throat do not usually require a throat culture unless symptoms develop.

If the diagnosis is strep throat, your child will be prescribed an antibiotic. To prevent a more serious disease (such as rheumatic fever), your child must take this medication until it is gone, even if the symptoms are gone and the child is feeling well.

**Children should not be given Aspirin when treating illness.** It could lead to Reyes Syndrome which is a serious neurological disorder. Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Motrin/Advil (Ibuprophen) are both acceptable for children. Give as directed on the bottle.

**Please remember that children are not allowed to transport medication to or from school and the school nurse can not administer medication without a prescription and a permission note from the parent on file at the school.** (A pharmacy label does not replace a prescription.)