



## HEALTH UPDATE

We have had a number of cases of strep throat recently. The causative organism of strep throat is beta-hemolytic streptococcus. Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease are possible and results of **UNTREATED** strep throat, so this illness should never be treated lightly.

**Your child may have all or some of the following symptoms:**

- Sudden sore throat
- Stomach ache, nausea, and/or vomiting
- Swollen glands in the neck area
- Possible headache

**If you suspect that your child may have strep throat:**

- Call your pediatrician
- Have a throat culture done
- Instruct all family members not to share food, drinks, or utensils.

**If your child test positive for strep throat:**

- Call and inform the school nurse, please.
- Your child may return to school after they have been on medication for at least 24 hours, after they have been fever-free for a day, and if they feel better.
- It is very important that your child take all of the medication.
- A change of toothbrush after the antibiotic have been started is suggested.
- Wash the mouthpiece of any instrument that your child plays.