



GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL INVASIVE (GAS) DISEASE FACT SHEET

WHAT IS GAS?

Group A streptococci (GAS) are bacteria commonly found in the throat and on the skin. The vast majority of GAS infections are relatively mild illnesses, such as strep throat and impetigo. Occasionally, however, these bacteria can cause much more severe disease.

HOW DO YOU GET GAS?

GAS spreads:

Person to person by coughing or sneezing.

Touching something that has the bacteria on it and then touching your mouth or nose.

Sharing eating or drinking utensils with an infected person.

Touching sores on the skin caused by group A strep.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms typically appear 2 to 5 days after being exposed and may include:

- Fever
- Generalized reddening of the skin
- Rapid-onset hypertension
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Muscle pain

TREATMENT

Treated with antibiotics. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

PREVENTION

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing and before preparing foods or eating.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Do not share eating or drinking utensils.
- Stay home from work, school, or daycare until you no longer have a fever and have taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours so you don't spread the infection to others.

HEALTH DISTRICT EFFORTS

Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the Delaware General Health District (DGHD). The DGHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.