[Date Here]

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

An individual in your child’s class has been diagnosed with streptococcal infection (otherwise known as Strep throat/ Scarlet fever) which is caused by group A Streptococcus (or “group A strep”) bacteria.

The group A streptococcus bacteria are spread through nose and throat secretions when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes, and rarely, through contact with objects contaminated by an infected person.

Children with streptococcal infection develop fever, sore throat, and a possibly an itchy, red sandpaper-like rash (scarlet fever) and a red, bumpy (strawberry-like appearance) tongue. Other symptoms of Streptococcal infection might include headache, stomachache, swollen lymph nodes or swollen glands, and nausea or vomiting. Generally, symptoms develop within 2-5 days after exposure. The contagious period is highest during acute infection; children are no longer contagious within 24 hours after antibiotics.

If you notice your child has a sore throat and/or rash, please take your child and this letter to their doctor to test for strep. Early treatment of strep infection with antibiotics can protect your child from complications of strep infection which can include kidney problems or acute rheumatic fever. Also, your child may not return to school until he/she provide proof from the healthcare provider to return to school. Keep your children with scarlet fever or strep throat at home from school or for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Washing your hands frequently with soap and water, and not sharing drinking and eating utensils is the best way to prevent and reduce the spread of Streptococcal infection.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the school nurse at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) at (312) 746-6015.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Principal] [School Nurse]