[Date Here]

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

An individual in your child’s classroom has been diagnosed with Strep throat or Scarlet fever. Both are caused by group A Streptococcus (or “group A strep”) bacteria. Strep throat is a common infection in children. Scarlet fever is a type of strep infection that includes both strep throat symptoms and a rash.

The group A streptococcus bacteria are spread through nose and throat secretions when an infected person talks, coughs, or sneezes. It can spread when other people breathe in respiratory droplets that have the bacteria. It may also spread if a person touches their nose or mouth after touching a surface or object that has the bacteria. It may also spread by sharing plates, utensils, and cups with someone who has the bacteria.

Children with a streptococcal infection may have a sudden onset of fever, a sore throat, stomachache, headache, swollen glands in their neck, and a decreased appetite. With scarlet fever, they may also have an itchy, red sandpaper-like rash and a red, bumpy (strawberry-like appearance) tongue. The rash usually starts on the face or neck and spreads to the chest, body, arms, and legs. A person is most contagious with strep throat or scarlet fever while they are having symptoms and is no longer contagious within 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

To prevent the spread of strep infections, encourage your children to:

* Wash their hands often with soap and water.
* Avoid sharing eating utensils or drinks.
* Keep your child home when they are ill.

If you notice your child has a sore throat, fever, and/or a new rash, please see a healthcare provider. 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. If your child is diagnosed with strep throat or scarlet fever:

* You must provide a note from a healthcare provider for them to return to school.
* Keep your child home until fever-free (without a fever-reducing medicine) for at least 24 hours.
* Keep your child home until they have been on antibiotics for
  + [At least 24 hours (if early childcare center)]
  + [At least 12 hours (if K12 school]

If you have questions about this information, please contact your school nurse.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Principal] [School Nurse]