

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TEL: 905-825-6000 FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Hills Physicians
Medical Chiefs of Staff: Georgetown Hospital
Chair of: Family Practice Georgetown

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

FROM: Dr. Daniela Kempkens, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: February 20, 2018

RE: Close contacts of invasive group A strep case recommended to start chemoprophylaxis

Today in Georgetown, the Halton Region Health Department identified a number of school children who are close contacts of a case of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) disease who meet criteria for post-exposure chemoprophylaxis. The parents/guardians received a letter from the Health Department today advising them to contact their family doctor or go to a walk-in clinic to obtain a prescription for antibiotic post-exposure prophylaxis. Ideally in these close contacts chemoprophylaxis should be started by tomorrow, February 21, 2018. Information on iGAS describing signs and symptoms to watch for over the next 30 days was provided to close and non-close contacts.

I would like to make you aware of this situation as you may receive calls from close contacts today or tomorrow seeking a prescription for antibiotics. You may also get calls from concerned non-close contacts. More information about iGAS can be found here: <http://www.halton.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=9774>. A printable fact sheet on GAS is also available on the same website.

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [reportable diseases](#) to the Halton Region Health Department immediately. Dial 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit www.halton.ca/physicians. To sign up for important updates by email, visit www.halton.ca/physicianupdates.

If any link provided in this memo does not work, please cut and paste it into your web browser.