

Streptococcus

What is streptococcus?

Streptococcus is a bacterium that is usually found on the skin and in the throat. Most carriers of the bacteria have no symptoms of illness. Most infections caused by the streptococci bacteria are mild, and include “strep throat”, and impetigo. On occasion, although rare, these bacteria can cause other severe and even life threatening diseases.

How is streptococcus spread?

The streptococci bacteria is spread through contact with the mucus in the nose or throat, as well as direct contact with skin wounds and sores of individuals who are infected.

How is streptococcus treated?

Individuals who are infected are generally treated with a course of antibiotics. This treatment in most cases will eliminate a person’s ability to spread the bacteria. It is important for those put on antibiotics to complete the entire course of the prescription.

How can the chance of infection be reduced?

The best way to prevent an infection is good hand washing practices. Hand washing should occur especially after sneezing or coughing and before preparing foods or eating.