

# Group A Streptococcus (GAS) Resource for Long Term Care



## General Fact Sheet

- What is group A Streptococcal Disease?
- What are the symptoms of GAS disease?
- How is GAS spread?
- How common is GAS?
- Who gets GAS infection?
- How is GAS disease diagnosed?
- What is the treatment for GAS?
- What can you do to prevent GAS Infection?

Visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/group-a-streptococcal-disease>

## Diseases Caused by GAS

- [Strep Throat](#)
- [Cellulitis](#)
- [Scarlet Fever](#)
- [Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome](#)
- [Impetigo](#)
- [Rheumatic Fever](#)
- [Necrotizing Fasciitis](#)
- [Post-Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis](#)



## Cleaning & Disinfection

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/cleaning.html>

## Infection Prevention and Control:

- Frequent hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol. If hands are visibly dirty or soiled, handwashing should be performed with soap and water.
  - Hand Hygiene Audit Tool: [CDC ICAR tool](#)
  - Watch a Hand Hygiene Webinar [Here!](#)
  - Aseptic wound care, avoiding cross contamination between residents and ensuring the use of clean supplies in a clean environment
  - Wound Care Audit Tool: [CDC ICAR tool](#)
- Routine surveillance for residents and staff with symptoms of group A streptococcus (sore throat, enlarged lymph nodes, impetigo), and wound assessments. Symptomatic individuals should be tested and treated if positive.

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## Recommended Precautions

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html#S>

Streptococcal disease (GAS) Infection/Condition	Type of Precaution	Duration of Precaution	Precautions/ Comments
Skin, wound, or burn (Major)	Contact + Droplet + Standard	Until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy	Until drainage stops or can be contained by dressing
Skin, wound, or burn (Minor or limited)	Standard	n/a	If dressing covers and contains drainage
Pharyngitis, Pneumonia, or Scarlet fever	Droplet + Standard	Until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy	n/a
Serious invasive disease	Droplet + Standard	Until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy	Outbreaks of serious invasive disease have occurred secondary to transmission among patients and healthcare personnel Contact Precautions for draining wound as above; follow recommendations for antimicrobial prophylaxis in selected conditions