



Sequatchie Valley Planning & Development Agency
Sequatchie Valley Head Start

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

_____ A child in our program has Scarletina.

_____ Your child may have Scarletina.

Information about Scarletina:

What is it? Scarletina is a contagious illness caused by strep. Scarletina follows a strep infection of the throat, skin, or some other part of the body. It begins with a fever, sore throat, nausea, and vomiting. A rash usually appears on the second day as a pin-red flush containing lesions the size of pinheads. This rash will quickly spread over all parts of the body, including hands and feet. It is important that your child receive treatment because treatment with antibiotics can usually prevent rare but possible dangerous complications such as rheumatic fever. Rheumatic fever causes abnormalities of the heart valves and inflammation of the joints.

To prevent the spread of scarlatina:

- Thoroughly wash your hands and your child's hands after wiping noses and before eating or preparing food
- Wash dishes carefully in hot, soapy water or in a dishwasher
- Do not allow children to share cups, spoons, or toys that are put into the mouth
- Do not allow sharing of food

Please take these precautions:

1. Observe your child for symptoms of scarlatina, using the information given above.
2. If you think your child may have scarlatina, take your child to your healthcare provider.
3. If your child does have scarlatina, let the staff at the center know.