



Department of Public Health  
Floor 2, Block 8, St. Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork.  
T12 XH60  
Tel: 021 4927601 F: 021 4923257

Rannóg Sláinte Poiblí  
Urlár 2, Bloc 8, Ospidéal N. Fhionnbharra, Bóthar Dhúglais, Corcaigh.  
T12 XH60  
T: 021 4927601 F: 021 4923257

**Date:** 27/02/2023

Dear Coláiste Éamann Rís Community,

I wish to inform you that this Department has been notified of a case of invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) infection in an individual attending your school Coláiste Éamann Rís.

Strep A (Group A Streptococcus) is a common bacterium (germ) that is sometimes found in a person's throat or on the skin without causing any symptoms. It can cause mild illness such as sore throats and skin infections.

In rare cases, these bacteria can cause a severe and life threatening illness called invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS). While it is very unlikely that there will be further cases of iGAS in the facility it is important to be aware of the symptoms of this infection.

#### Signs and Symptoms of iGAS

It's not always easy to tell if you have iGAS. Symptoms can appear like symptoms of other conditions.

##### Symptoms of iGAS include:

- High temperature (38 degrees Celsius or higher)
- Muscle tenderness or severe muscle aches
- Increasing pain, swelling and redness at site of a wound
- Dizziness and confusion
- A flat red rash over large areas of the body
- Unexplained diarrhoea or vomiting

Having these symptoms does not always mean you have iGAS. But you should get urgent medical help if you or your child feel very unwell. Trust your instincts. iGAS is a serious infection that can lead to sepsis.

The following links contain information on signs & symptoms of both Strep A infection and iGAS infection:  
Strep A Factsheet: [www.hpsc.ie/a-z/other/groupastreptococcaldiseasegas/factsheets/StrepAFactsheet.pdf](http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/other/groupastreptococcaldiseasegas/factsheets/StrepAFactsheet.pdf)  
Strep A (Group A streptococcus): <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/strep-a/>

Please seek medical advice from your GP or Emergency Department if you are concerned about illness in your child or other family member.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Clíodhna Ni Bhuachalla MCRN: 277437**  
**Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine, Public Health Area D**