

Guidance for Restriction of Visitors and/or New Patient Admissions during a group A streptococcal (GAS) Outbreak in a Long Term Care Facility (LTCF)

There is no concrete guidance for visitor restriction or restriction of new admissions during an outbreak of GAS. Below are some guidance elements when working with a facility in your jurisdiction:

- Establish a good working relationship with the facility
- Reinforce (or create) a visitor screening protocol
 - Restrict visitors who have experienced a sore throat, fever or cough within 1-2 days before visiting
 - Post signs listing these symptoms
 - Encourage all visitors to conduct hand hygiene upon entry to and exit from the facility
 - Provide hand hygiene signs to encourage visitor participation
 - Place hand hygiene stations in highly visible locations
- Reinforce the employee illness policy
- Review and monitor all employee “sick” logs
 - Share a linelist “log” with the facility to increase compliance with tracking
 - During an outbreak, staff calling out should be routinely asked about symptoms
 - Staff symptomatic for GAS should seek medical attention and obtain throat culture
 - Encourage facility to make the LHD CD staff aware of any new facility staff members with GAS symptoms as soon as possible

Articles for additional information can be found here:

<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/52/8/988.full.pdf+html> (LTACH)

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6042.pdf> (LTCF)

<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/45/6/742.full.pdf+html> (LTCF)