

Wound Infections

ALERT FOR PEOPLE LIVING HOMELESS

GET CARE FOR WOUND INFECTIONS



Group A strep is a germ that is spreading in King County. It can cause “strep throat” and skin infections, and also **severe infections**, including “**flesh-eating**” **bacterial infections**. People living homeless and those who inject drugs are at higher risk.

If you have the following, see a doctor or healthcare provider:



Skin or a wound that has swelling, redness or pain.



Fever, dizziness or confusion, sometimes with a flat, red rash

HOW IT SPREADS FROM PERSON-TO-PERSON



Sneezing, coughing, or spraying tiny saliva droplets when talking.



Sharing food, drinks, drugs, or personal items like forks or cups.



Contact with infected wounds or skin sores.

HOW TO PREVENT INFECTION



Get prompt treatment for wounds, illnesses with fever, and lice, bed bugs or itchy skin.

Regularly check, clean, and bandage wounds until healed. Infected wounds (e.g., red, swollen, painful) should be checked by a health care provider **as soon as possible**.



Wash hands frequently with soap and water (e.g., after toileting, before meals, after coughing/sneezing). Soap and water is best, but if unavailable, use hand sanitizer.

Bathe and wash clothing as regularly as possible.



Cover coughs and sneezes.

AVOID SHARING:



Personal care items (bar soap, toothbrushes, razors, combs, unwashed clothing, towels, etc.)



Food, drinks, dishes, or utensils



Cigarettes or items used to inject, smoke, or snort drugs (needles, cookers, water, tourniquets, pipes, etc.)