



Is It Strep Throat?

Strep throat is a sore throat caused by bacteria known as *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus. Sore throat is a term for any situation where the throat feels scratchy, tender, and possibly painful. Strep throat is a type of sore throat. Sore throat may be caused by bacteria or viruses, while strep throat is only caused by bacteria.

Is Strep Throat Contagious?

Streptococcal bacteria are extremely contagious and can spread through airborne droplets when a sick person sneezes or coughs. People may also become infected by touching surfaces which an infected person had previously touched, such as a doorknob, kitchen utensils and bathroom objects.

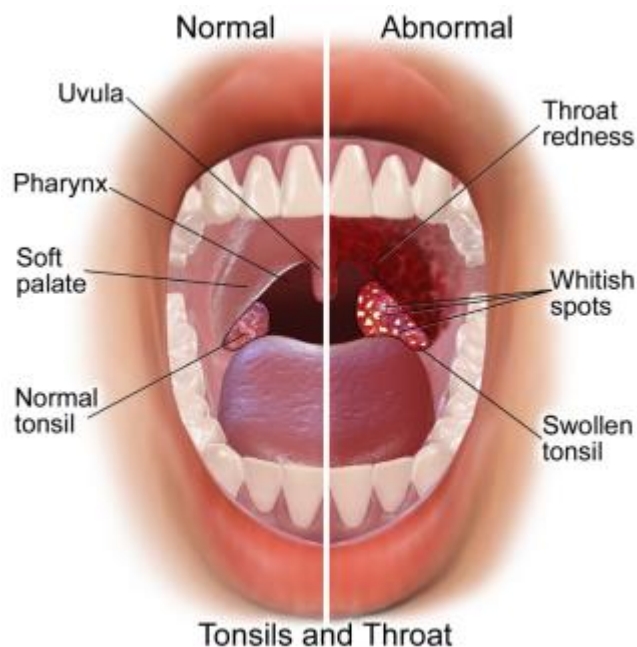
Most sore throats are not usually serious and the infected person generally improves within three to seven days without treatment. They are more common among children and adolescents. This is because younger people's bodies have not been exposed to as many viruses and bacteria as adults – they have not built up immunity to many of them. It is not uncommon for people of any age to have a couple of bouts of sore throat in a one-year period.

Symptoms of a Sore Throat

- Inflamed tonsils
- Tender and swollen neck glands
- Pain in the back of the throat
- Pain or discomfort when swallowing
- Fever (definitely an infection)
- Bodily aches (probably an infection)
- Headache (probably an infection)
- Tiredness (probably an infection)

Symptoms of Strep Throat

- Pain in the throat and difficulty swallowing
- Tonsils are painful and/or swollen
- Very small red spots may appear on the soft part of the palate
- Nodes of the neck are swollen and tender
- Fever
- Rash
- Stomachache



When Should I Come to MainStreet Family Urgent Care?

Whether it's simply a sore throat or you think it might be strep throat, come see the friendly staff at MainStreet Family Urgent Care and Walk-In Clinic! We can help you get the right treatment so you heal better and feel better, FAST! We are open seven days a week and require no appointment.

**If you think you are suffering from a sore throat or strep throat,
stop by MainStreet Family Urgent Care!
Open 7 days a week with no appointment necessary!**