

Things to know about **THROAT INFECTIONS**

Call us First...

- Throat infections can be caused by viruses or bacteria.
- Infections from viruses generally require not treatment.
- Group A Streptococcus is the most important bacterial cause of throat infections; know as "Strep Throat."
- Common symptoms of Strep Throat include sore throat, headache, fever, and abdominal pain. Runny nose and cough are not usually part of Strep Throat. If your child has these symptoms, he most likely has a virus.
- Strep Throat can occur in people of all ages, but is most common in children 5-15 years old. It is not common in children younger than 3.
- Strep Throat Infections usually get better even if not treated, but treatment with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications (including Rheumatic Heart Disease).
- Treatment can be started as late as 9 days after symptoms first appear. Strep Throat is generally not an emergency. **Call us first, anytime night or day**, if you are concerned about your child or feel she may need emergency assessment.
- **Call us immediately, anytime, day or night**, if your child has a fever greater than 105 (F), or is having difficulty swallowing speaking or is excessively drooling, or if she has severe neck pain or stiffness, or if your are worried about how ill your child appears.
- **Call us first, anytime, day or night**, before seeking emergency care. We have many options for testing and treating your child's throat infection that can be offered right through our office.

If your child is experiencing and immediate, life-threatening emergency, call 911 or go to an Emergency Room.