
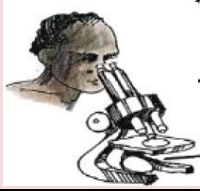







Zoonoses Fact Sheet - Skin sores and Streps

<p>What are skin sores?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin sores are small infected areas of skin. • They can start out from skin being scratched. This breaks the surface and lets germs like <i>Strep</i> and <i>Staph</i> bacteria into the body. • Anything that makes skin itchy is a risk factor for skin sores: scabies, hookworms, mosquitoes, ticks, etc. 	<p>What are bacteria?</p> <p>Bacteria are a kind of germ, tiny living things, too small to see with the naked eye. You can only see them with a microscope. Bacteria live in many places, including the soil, skin and gut. There are a lot of types of bacteria that live around us, but only a few can cause disease, such as diarrhoea, skin sores, kidney infections and blood diseases.</p>
<p>What are Streptococci?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streptococci (Streps) are bacteria that live on the skin, including healthy skin. They can also live inside mouths. • Normally they live on the skin of either people or animals, but some types can be shared. • Streps belong to different families or groups. Group A Streps cause most of the problems in people. 	
<p>How do Streps make people sick?</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streps can make people sick when they get inside the body. • They can cause skin infections and sore throats (tonsillitis, strep throat) in people. • When Streps from a skin sore get inside the body, they can make people really sick with rheumatic fever, and post-rheumatic heart disease and kidney disease (post streptococcal glomerulonephritis). These are major problems in remote communities. 	
<p>How are dogs in remote communities linked to Strep?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs carry diseases like mites, worms, fleas and lice that can make people itchy, causing skin sores. • Studies in the NT and Qld have found 10-35% of dogs in remote communities carried <i>Streps</i>. So far, most of these haven't been Group A Streps. • However, dog Streps may carry factors that make Group A Streps more harmful to people. Streps on dogs' tongue or coat could infect people's skin sores and mix with human Group A Streps. If they shared factors, that could make the human Streps more dangerous. 	
<p>How do we prevent people getting sick from Strep?</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look after skin and keep it healthy and clean: bathe or swim every day. • Treat cuts and sores quickly with antiseptic and a bandaid • Wash hands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping bedding and yards clean. • Don't let dogs lick people • Keeping dogs clean from ticks and lice • Treat mange in people and dogs. Anything that makes people itch and scratch damages the skin, letting in Streps.  	

Source: Professor Richard Speare, Human Doctor and Veterinarian, James Cook University, Zoonoses training at QLD Health/AMRRIC Workshops, Yarrabah, 2008
 Dr Sam Phelan, Dog Health Programs in Indigenous communities, an Environmental Health Practitioner's Guide, AMRRIC, 2010
 Layla Schreiber, Research Masters student, James Cook University