

AMBER ALERT – For Information**CONCERNS-ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED**

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| Date: | 21 March, 2017 |
| Location of Incident: | Cambridge City |
| Concerning: | Invasive Group A Streptococcal (IGAS) infection |
| Identified risk: | Can cause severe and even life-threatening diseases. |
| Source of information: | Health Protection Agency/PHE |
| Alert instigated by: | Cambridgeshire DAAT Susie Talbot 01223 699680 |

Dear Colleagues,

We have been notified of a recent case of **Invasive Group A Streptococcal (IGAS) infection** in Cambridge City, this follows a number of cases reported in the East of England.

Main messages are:

- ❖ Most infections caused by strep A are unpleasant, but don't pose a serious threat to health. In rare cases strep A bacteria can penetrate deeper inside the tissues and organs of the body, and become what's known as an invasive infection – invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS).
- ❖ iGAS infection is a serious infection with a high fatality rate – so early recognition and prompt medical intervention are essential.
- ❖ Services that work with the homeless and People who Inject Drugs (PWID) populations should emphasize safe and hygienic injection practices and ensure easy access to needle and syringe programmes.
- ❖ People who are homeless and PWID with any skin lesions or other evidence of infection should be encouraged to seek prompt medical attention.

We attach an information leaflet and a poster that we encourage you to put up to inform clients, please disseminate this information to all relevant organisations.

Please urge your service users to share information with their peers, and seek health advice if they have any concerns.

If you have any further queries, please contact
Cambridgeshire DAAT 01223 699680 or Safer Peterborough Partnership 01733 863880
or
Public Health England
West Wing, Victoria House,
Capital Park,
Fulbourn,
Cambridge, CB21 5XB
Tel: 01223 722470
Email: Enquiries.EastofEngland@phe.gov.uk

Thank you for your assistance in preventing further fatalities or harm.