



Dear Parent,

Screening for children aged 1-16 years in Carnarvon

There have recently been several children in the Carnarvon community sick with the kidney disease acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). This disease causes inflammation in the kidneys leading to high blood pressure, blood in the urine, and a puffy looking face or body.

This kidney disease occurs after infection with Group A streptococcus (GAS), a highly contagious bacteria that most commonly causes a throat infection or skin sores. Children with APSGN or a GAS infection can become very sick.

Given the recent increase in cases of APSGN and GAS in Carnarvon we recommend your child is screened at a GP clinic or medical centre.

Screening involves:

- A skin check for sores, scabies, head lice
 - If found, testing and treatment can be offered.
- Examination for a puffy face or body
 - If found, then a urine check and blood pressure check can be offered.

Given the summer holidays are starting, it is recommended your child is screened before the holiday period. Screening can be done in any medical clinic, even if you travel elsewhere, so take this letter with you to the clinic.

GAS infection can be prevented with good hand hygiene, body washing, regular washing of clothes and bedding, and staying home when sick.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Yolande Knight
CONSULTANT PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

06 December 2024

Midwest Public Health Unit
51 – 85 Shenton Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Letters: PO Box 22, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: 0427990285 Fax: (08) 9956 1991
ABN 28 680 145 816
www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au