

iGAS - What you need to know

Invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS)

Invasive GAS (iGAS) infections occur when the bacteria get past the defences of the person who is infected. This may occur when a person has sores or other breaks in the skin that allow the bacteria to get into the tissue. This is particularly important for those people who inject drugs.

Signs and Symptoms

- **High fever considered to be above 38C**



Touch your chest and back. If they feel hotter than usual, you may have a high temperature. You may also have other symptoms such as feeling shivery (chills). Touching your forehead is not a very accurate way of checking your temperature.

- **Severe muscle aches**
- **Localised muscle tenderness**
- **Redness at the site of a wound**



If you have any of these symptoms get checked out by your GP as soon as possible

Things you can do to reduce the risk of you getting an iGAS infection

- Wash your hands regularly
- Keep injection sites clean and wash them before every injection. If you don't have soap and water use an alcohol wipe
- Don't share any injecting equipment or crack pipes
- If worried get your sites checked in any of our services.
- iGAS is infectious. If you are poorly don't mix with others until you have completed your anti-biotics
- Smoke drugs rather than injecting them