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**Subject:** Scarlet Fever Report

**Date:** 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

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## Introduction

Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that mainly affects children<sup>1</sup>. The illness is caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria, also known as Group A *Streptococcus* (GAS), which are found on the skin and in the throat.

Notifications and GP consultations for scarlet fever in England are higher than normal for this point in the season<sup>2</sup>, and Jersey has seen a similar trend.

This report provides a summary of the number of scarlet fever notifications received by the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team this season. Notifications are received from General Practitioners (GP's, including on-call doctors) or from the hospital.

Also included, is a summary of the number of primary care (GP) consultations for probable scarlet fever<sup>3</sup> between 2015 and present, to show the historical pattern of scarlet fever illness on-Island.

It should be noted that due to differences in healthcare pathways and the way that notifications for scarlet fever are processed, local data for Jersey is not directly comparable to data published the UK Health Security Agency<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

<sup>2</sup> [UKHSA Group A Streptococcal infections during the 2022 to 2023 season](#)

<sup>3</sup> Consultations which have been coded as "Scarlet Fever - Scarlatina" or "Scarletiniiform" in the EMIS primary care system. Coding protocol varies between GP practices, and as practices are private businesses, the Government of Jersey is unable to assess the data quality of this data, and as such it should be considered illustrative.

## Scarlet Fever Notifications

Table 1 shows the number of scarlet fever notifications received by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team during Autumn/Winter 2022/2023.

Over 30 cases were reported during July 2022, before monthly cases dropped to around 10 per month between September and November and increased during the month of December.

So far in January 2023, there have been **19** notifications.

**Table 1. The number of scarlet fever notifications received by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team during Autumn/Winter 2022/2023**

<i>Scarlet Fever Notifications</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
<b>January*</b>	-	<b>19</b>
<b>February</b>	-	
<b>March</b>	-	
<b>April</b>	-	
<b>May</b>	-	
<b>June</b>	-	
<b>July</b>	34	
<b>August</b>	16	
<b>September</b>	7	
<b>October</b>	6	
<b>November</b>	11	
<b>December</b>	81	

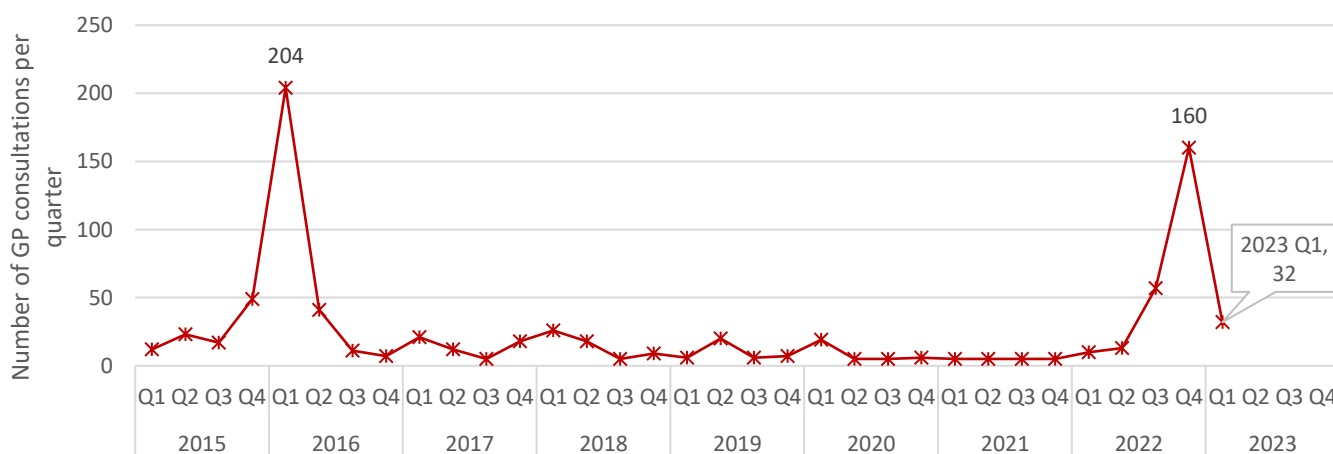
\* total notifications as at 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023, not a complete month. Notifications are sometimes received retrospectively, and data may be updated when new notification information becomes available

## Primary Care Consultations for Scarlet Fever

Figure 1 shows the number of GP consultations (per quarter) coded as scarlet fever in Jersey<sup>4</sup>. The 2015 to 2016 winter was the last time a peak in scarlet fever circulation was seen in Jersey.

So far in Quarter 1 of 2023 (January, February, and March) there have been **32** GP consultations coded as probable scarlet fever in Jersey.

**Figure 1. Number of GP consultations (per quarter) coded as scarlet fever in Jersey (2015 to 2023)**



Source: Primary Care system (EMIS)

<sup>4</sup> Consultations which have been coded as “Scarlet Fever - Scarlatina” or “Scarletiform” in the EMIS primary care system. Coding protocol varies between GP practices, and as practices are private businesses, the Government of Jersey is unable to assess the data quality of this data, and as such it should be considered illustrative