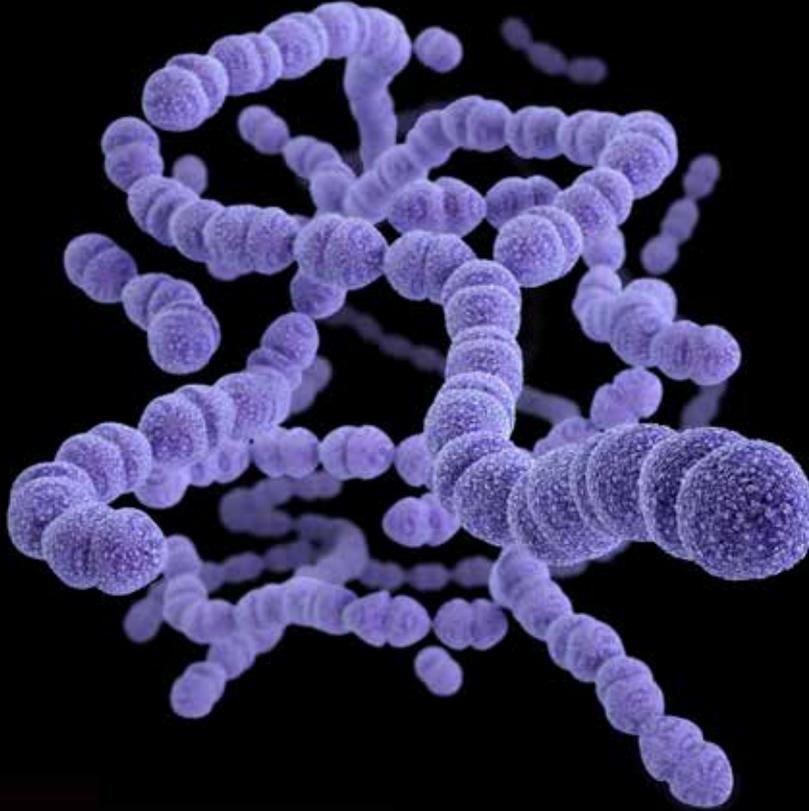


WARNING

Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infections

There has been a recent increase in serious infections amongst injecting drug users in Greater Manchester.



Symptoms of GAS infections

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a type of bacteria often found in the throat and on the skin. It is easily spread between people through sneezing, kissing, skin contact and sharing injecting equipment. People may have no symptoms of illness or they may have symptoms including:

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

If you develop any of these symptoms contact your GP or seek medical advice immediately.

To reduce risk of infection:

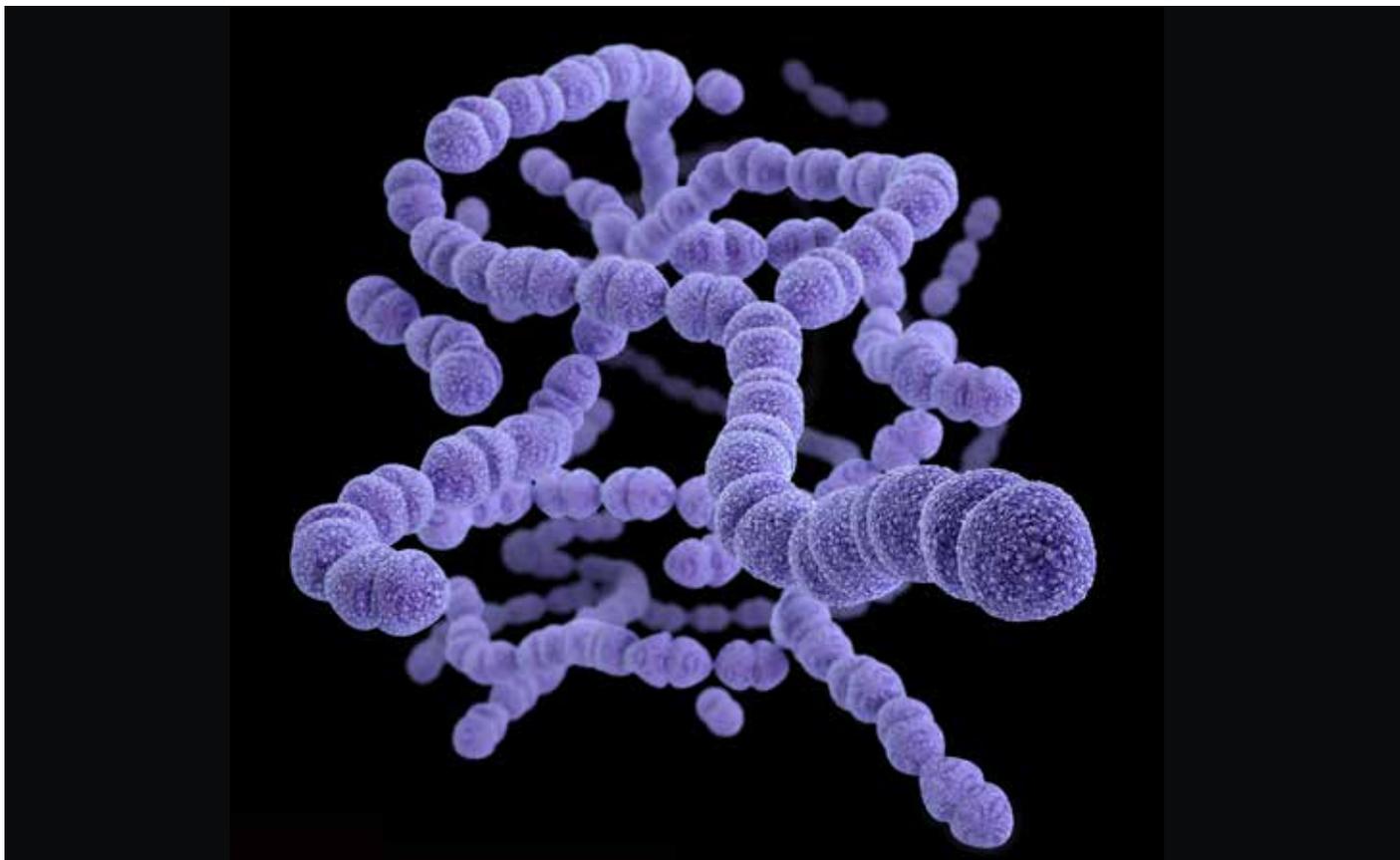
- Consider alternatives to injecting
- Wash your hands and the injection site thoroughly before injecting.
- Use new injecting equipment for every injection.
- Filter substance prior to injecting.
- If injecting stimulants do not use citric acid or vitamin C.
- Inject into a vein - injecting into muscle or skin causes more damage and increases the risk of infection

Ask at this service for more support and advice

WARNING

Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infections

There has been a recent increase in serious infections amongst injecting drug users in Greater Manchester.



Symptoms of GAS infections

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a type of bacteria often found in the throat and on the skin. It is easily spread between people through sneezing, kissing, skin contact and sharing injecting equipment.

People may have no symptoms of illness or they may have symptoms including:

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

If you develop any of these symptoms contact your GP or seek medical advice immediately.

To reduce risk of infection:

- Consider alternatives to injecting
- Wash your hands and the injection site thoroughly before injecting.
- Use new injecting equipment for every injection.
- Filter substance prior to injecting.
- If injecting stimulants do not use citric acid or vitamin C.
- Inject into a vein - injecting into muscle or skin causes more damage and increases the risk of infection

Ask at this service for more support and advice