mild condition. But it can be up to two to five days for someone to feel better. It usually takes this long to spread the bacteria to others (for example). It is contagious. Generally, people who have strep throat are contagious for two to three days before they see symptoms. To find out if you have strep throat, see a health care provider right away, and they may send a sample of your throat to a lab. The lab will test your sample for strep throat and see if it is positive or negative. If it is positive, you will need to take antibiotics. If it is negative, you will not need to take antibiotics.

Common symptoms include:

- A sore throat that starts quickly and is painful. Swallowing can be painful. There may be white patches or streaks of pus, tiny red spots on the roof of the mouth and a swollen lymph node near the neck. Less common symptoms include nausea and vomiting, headaches, and generalized symptoms like body aches. The rash that is known as scarlet fever appears. It is caused by a bacterium called Streptococcus pyogenes. Some people have a red sore throat or a red rash are not infected with streptococcal. If your symptoms are severe, such as if you have a sore throat, rash, and body aches, talk to your doctor. They may give you antibiotics. If you have these symptoms, contact your doctor.

In general, strep throat is a mild condition. It is not very painful and can be very contagious. If you have strep throat, you will need to take antibiotics. If you don’t, you will be contagious for a period of time. You can spread the bacteria to others. It is contagious for two to three days before you see symptoms. To find out if you have strep throat, see a health care provider right away, and they may send a sample of your throat to a lab. The lab will test your sample for strep throat and see if it is positive or negative. If it is positive, you will need to take antibiotics. If it is negative, you will not need to take antibiotics.

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