**Date**

Dear **[provider]**,

**Group A *Streptococcus* (group A strep, GAS)** bacteria can live in a person's nose, throat, or skin lesions, and can lead to life-threatening infections, particularly among long-term care residents. The bacteria are spread through contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze, drinking from the same glass or eating from the same plate as the sick person, or coming into contact with wounds from a person with a skin infection.

As you are aware, there have been **X** cases of invasive and/or noninvasive group A strep identified in residents and **X** cases in staff at **FACILITY NAME**. **X** of these positive residents have died. *(Delete this statement if not applicable)* Given effective strategies for prevention of group A strep, **even one case of invasive** group A strep should prompt an epidemiological investigation by the facility’s infection control personnel and the local health department. In a facility setting, identification of2 invasive cases **OR** 1 invasive case + 1 noninvasive case(symptom onset of second case occurs within 4 months of the first case) meets criteria for an outbreak of the disease.

**Recommended steps for your facility to decrease risk of transmission of group A strep are outlined below and were provided by XXX County Health Department. Please refer to the enclosed Decision Tool for additional details.**

**Healthcare workers (HCWs):**

* Re-survey (not culture) HCWs for symptoms of group A strep infection (fever, sore throat, tonsillitis, rash, cellulitis, or skin lesion)
* Culture symptomatic HCWs
* Treat positive cultures as clinically indicated
* Consider culturing asymptomatic HCWs that provided direct care to cases in the 7 days before illness onset

**Residents**

* Screen (culture) all residents, except those on group A strep treatment within the last 14 days
  + **Sites to culture:** throat, skin lesions, & ostomy sites
* Treat those who have positive cultures
  + See regimen options for group A strep carriage eradication on CDC [website](https://www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/outbreaks/LTCF/investigate.html) (www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/outbreaks/LTCF/investigate.html). Note: this differs from treatment for clinical cases. Options described on lower half of webpage.

**Infection Control:**

* Review hand hygiene practices and cleaning procedures with staff
* Review infection control policies for wound care and respiratory care with staff
* Conduct active surveillance for additional invasive or noninvasive cases among residents for 4 months from onset of most recent group A strep case

Please see the enclosed Decision Tool for additional details. More background information on group A strep can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/groupAstrep/) (www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/). Please communicate understanding of steps and any questions to the local health department.

Sincerely,

**[LHD signature/footer]**