



Dear Doctor,

Since the beginning of January, the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU) has seen an increase in the number of reported cases of Scarlet Fever. Although no epidemiological link between the cases could be identified, it is important that the situation is kept under close surveillance. With this in mind, I am hereby attaching a fact sheet on scarlet fever to serve as a standard guideline for diagnosis, and management.

May I remind you that Scarlet Fever is a notifiable disease. In view of the epidemiological significance of such cases, may I appeal to you to fulfill your legal obligations and report all cases you encounter to the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit giving the particulars of the index case and in this case also the details of the school attended.

Notifications to the IDCU

Telephone: 23266111, 23266101, 23266109, 23266012

E-mail: tanya.melillo@gov.mt or anthony.b.gatt@gov.mt.

Outside office hours: Contact Mater Dei Hospital on 2545 0000 and ask for the Public Health Doctor on call.

Staff at IDCU can make arrangements for throat swabs to be taken **prior** to starting any antibiotic.

I hope I can count on your co-operation and compliance with the above.

Dr R. Busuttil
Director General
Public Health Regulation