**5.1 Template letter to GP for a case of iGAS**

Dear Dr xx,

Re: Invasive group A streptococcal infection (iGAS) in a patient registered with you

Case: DOB:

Ref Number Address

Close Contacts: DOBs:

The above patient registered with your practice has been notified to Public Health as a case of invasive group A streptococcal disease (iGAS). Studies suggest that there may be an increased risk of iGAS infection in close contacts of a case but this risk is low. A close contact is defined as a person who has had prolonged close contact with the case in a household-type setting during the 7 days before diagnosis of iGAS infection in the index case.

The following is recommended for close contacts of iGAS infection.

1. Area Public Health Teams to provide close contacts of a case of iGAS disease with information about symptoms of iGAS (Please see [here](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/other/groupastreptococcaldiseasegas/factsheets/InfoLeafletforContactsofpatientsiGAS.pdf) for further information) << *This leaflet has already been sent to close contacts of this case*>>.

2. Close contacts should seek urgent medical attention if they develop symptoms suggestive of invasive disease, for example, high fever, severe muscle aches/localised tenderness within 30 days of diagnosis in the index case. <<*We have already advised close contacts of this>>*

*3.* Close contacts with symptoms suggestive of localised GAS infection (sore throat, skin infection, fever) within 30 days of diagnosis in the index case should be offered antibiotic treatment. Refer to [table 4](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/other/groupastreptococcaldiseasegas/guidance/ChoiceOfChemoprophylaxisAgent.pdf) for choice of agent. <<*None of the identified close contacts have symptoms currently / The following contacts have reported symptoms of GAS and have been advised to attend their GP for clinical assessment. If clinical presentation is suggestive of GAS, antibiotic treatment is recommended.*

4. Close contacts in the following high-risk groups should be prescribed antibiotic chemoprophylaxis:

* Older persons (≥75 years)
* Pregnant women ≥37 weeks gestation
* Women within 28 days of giving birth
* Neonates (up to 28 days old) *Please see* [*here*](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/other/groupastreptococcaldiseasegas/guidance/ManagementIGASCasesMothersNeonates.pdf) *for further information*
* Individuals who develop chickenpox with active lesions within the time period of 7 days prior to diagnosis in the iGAS case or within 48 hours after commencing antibiotics by the iGAS case, if exposure ongoing. Elements of PHRA should be taken into account.

5. If further cases of iGAS occur in the group of close contacts within a 30-day period, additional measures will be necessary. Please contact us in these circumstances.

If you have any queries, please contact the Area Public Health Team on << Phone number>>

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Yours sincerely,

Area Public Health Team