

## RHEUMATIC FEVER

It begins with a sore throat, but if left untreated it's a slippery slope. That sore throat could turn into life-threatening heart disease.

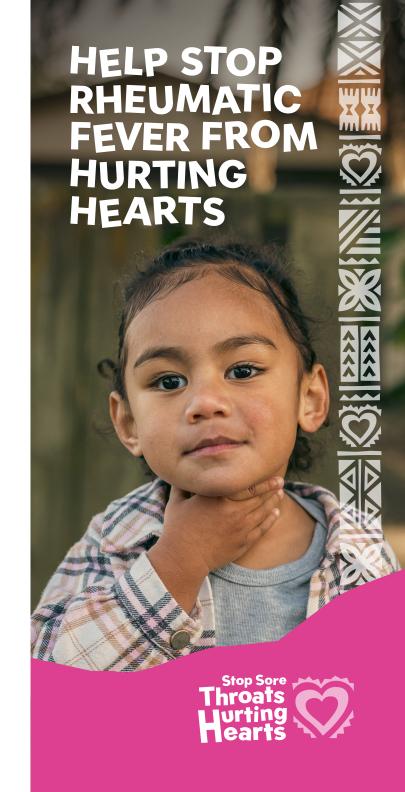
Don't wait to see if your child's throat gets better. Strep throat needs to be treated immediately. Treating sore throats early can stop rheumatic fever from developing.

SORE THROAT?
GET CHECKED
& GET IT TREATED!





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## RHEUMATIC FEVER IS SERIOUS, BUT IT CAN BE PREVENTED.

Rheumatic Fever is an autoimmune disease that can be caused by untreated strep throat.

It can damage your heart and cause swelling and pain in your hips, knees, ankles, elbows, and wrists. You may also notice a skin rash, fever, or jerky movements. Over time, most of these symptoms will go away but any damage to your heart may be permanent.

Rheumatic Fever disproportionately affects
Pasifika and Māori children aged between 4
– 19 years old. If your or your child is Pacific,
aged between 4 and 19 years and has a sore
throat, please get it checked at the school
nurse or family doctor straight away.



