

# COVID-19 and Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children



You may have heard news reports about a possible connection between **COVID-19** and a rare but serious health condition in children called Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). We are watching this very carefully and trying to learn all that we can about it.

We want to reassure parents that most children are not affected by the coronavirus, and reports of children who become seriously ill remain rare and unusual cases.

## What we know

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made a connection between COVID-19 and Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). While we do not know who is most at risk for this illness, scientists around the world are working hard to understand this syndrome and how best to treat it.

**The best thing you can do to protect your child is to call your pediatrician if you have *any* concerns about your child's health. Pediatricians are open for business and able to care for your children now.**

## Symptoms

MIS-C has been compared to another rare childhood condition, **Kawasaki Disease**, because it shares some of the same symptoms. But we now know this is a different illness. If you notice any of the following symptoms, call your pediatrician:

- a fever lasting more than 24 hours
- abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- rash or changes in skin color
- trouble breathing
- your child seems confused or overly sleepy

Be sure to let your pediatrician know if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus. Your pediatrician will let you know if your child can be seen in the office or if you need to go to the emergency department.

**While Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children sounds frightening, the American Academy of Pediatrics reminds parents that this condition is still very rare.**

## Remember

Call your pediatrician with any questions or concerns about your child. Do not be afraid to go to the pediatrician's office for checkups, vaccines, or if your child is sick. Your pediatrician cares about your child's health and is taking extra steps to make sure everyone is safe when they come in.

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**Source** American Academy of Pediatrics (Copyright © 2020)

The information contained on this Web site should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.