

# Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

## What is multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children?

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a new health condition associated with COVID-19 that is appearing in children. The syndrome was previously called pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome or PMIS.

MIS-C is like other serious inflammatory conditions such as [Kawasaki disease](#) and toxic shock syndrome. Children with MIS-C can have problems with their heart and other organs and need to receive medical care in a hospital.

MIS-C is a rare condition. However, because children with this syndrome may become seriously ill, it is important that parents know the signs and symptoms their children may have, so they can get help right away.

## What are the signs or symptoms of MIS-C?

Most children have fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees F or 38.0 degrees C or greater) lasting several days, along with other symptoms.

Common symptoms include:

- Irritability or decreased activity
- Abdominal pain without another explanation
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Conjunctivitis (red or pink eyes)
- Poor feeding
- Red, cracked lips or red, bumpy tongue that looks like a strawberry
- Swollen hands and feet, which might also be red

## When should I call my child's doctor or get emergency care?

Call your child's doctor immediately if your child has a persistent fever plus any of the above symptoms. The doctor will ask about the symptoms your child has and use that information to recommend next steps. If your child is severely ill, go to the nearest emergency room or call **911** immediately.

## Is MIS-C contagious?

MIS-C is not contagious, but it is possible that your child has COVID-19 or another infection that may be contagious. This is why hospitals will take infection control measures when treating your child.

## Is there a treatment for MIS-C?

Currently, children with MIS-C are being treated with different therapies, including medications targeted at the body's immune system and inflammatory response. Children may receive other medications to protect their heart, kidneys and other organs.

## How can I prevent my child from getting MIS-C?

You should take steps to prevent your child from being exposed to COVID-19. Face coverings, hand hygiene and physical distancing are the best ways to prevent COVID-19. Children with underlying medical conditions can be at higher risk for poor outcomes of COVID-19, making prevention measures even more important.