

**What is the multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)?**

It is a new health condition seen in children that seems to be associated with COVID-19 in some way. When trying to heal from a COVID-19 infection, a child's immune system may over-respond to the infection causing excess inflammation in his or her organs. MIS-C has been compared to another rare childhood condition with a similar inflammation response, Kawasaki disease, because it shares some of the same symptoms.

What are the symptoms of MIS-C?

- Abdominal pain without another explanation
- Both eyes appearing pink or red
- Enlarged lymph nodes ("gland") in the neck
- Fever for several days in an infant, for which no other explanation is identified
- Red, cracked lips, or red tongue that looks like a strawberry
- Rash
- Swollen hands and feet, which might also be red

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.

What is the case definition for MIS-C?

- An individual aged <21 years presenting with fever, laboratory evidence of inflammation, and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization, with multisystem (≥ 2) organ involvement (cardiac, renal, respiratory, hematologic, gastrointestinal, dermatologic or neurological); AND
- No alternative plausible diagnoses; AND
- Tested positive for COVID-19 or had COVID-19 exposure within the 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms

Is MIS-C contagious?

No. The child may have had coronavirus infection previously. Some children with MIS-C have current COVID-19 and are still contagious, some have had antibody suggesting past infection and some have not had evidence of current or past infection. However, the MIS-C itself is not contagious.

Do you need to have another health condition to get MIS-C?

No. MIS-C does not appear to be limited to children who already have another chronic or significant condition.

If I think my child has MIS-C, what should I do?

If you think that your child has MIS-C, you should contact your child's doctor or pediatrician immediately. Families with a child experiencing serious illness should not delay in getting care and should seek attention immediately from their nearest emergency room.

If my child was sick before (with a positive test for COVID-19 or no test at all), but is OK now, should I still get my child checked by his or her healthcare provider?

No. You should seek care for your child if your child does become ill and maintains a high fever that lasts for several days. Call your child's healthcare provider and seek medical attention immediately.

Is MIS-C specific to children?

It is currently unknown if multisystem inflammatory syndrome is specific to children or if it also occurs in adults.

