COVID-19 and Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome

You may have heard news reports about a possible connection between COVID-19 and a serious health condition in children currently called Pediatric Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome (sometimes called PIMS). We are watching this very carefully and trying to learn all that we can about it. Scientists around the world are working hard to understand this syndrome and how best to treat it.

Until then, 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

Despite being rare, there are reports of some children getting sick – whether from COVID-19 or from other causes, including PIMS. Some of these children reported to have this condition have tested positive for COVID-19, while others have not.

This is why it is so important that you 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

You may have heard it compared to other rare childhood conditions such as Kawasaki Disease or Toxic Shock Syndrome, but at this time, it is thought to be a separate condition.

If you notice any of the following symptoms, call your pediatrician:

- a fever that won't go away
- abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- rash or changes in skin color
- trouble breathing
- your child seems confused or overly sleepy

Your pediatrician will let you know if your child needs to be seen in the office or if you need to go to the emergency department.

While Pediatric Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome sounds frightening, the American Academy of Pediatrics reminds parents that this condition is very rare.
Remember
Call your pediatrician if you have 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.

More Information:

- Cloth Face Coverings for Children During COVID-19 (/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx)
- 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx)

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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.