

# Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

Information for health care providers



## What is MIS-C?

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare, but serious condition that sometimes affects children who were previously diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. MIS-C causes **parts of the body to become inflamed**, including inflammation of the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs or clotting disorders of the blood.

## What causes MIS-C?

It is unknown what triggers MIS-C. MIS-C is a new condition and medical experts are still learning why some children who had or were exposed to COVID-19 develop it, and others do not.

## Who is affected by MIS-C?

Most cases of MIS-C are in children between the ages of 1 and 14 years, but can occur in those from <1 to 20 years old. Most cases previously tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

View state and nationwide MIS-C case data at:

- [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/mis-c-data.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/mis-c-data.htm)
- [www.cdc.gov/mis-c/cases/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mis-c/cases/index.html)

## What are the signs and symptoms?

MIS-C may present weeks **after a child is infected with or comes into contact with someone with COVID-19**. It is possible that the child or their caregivers may not even know they have had COVID-19 or contact with someone who has COVID-19.

The following are possible **signs and symptoms of MIS-C**:

- Abdominal pain
- Tiredness
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Diarrhea
- Neck pain
- Blood shot eyes



## How is MIS-C diagnosed?

MIS-C can be difficult to diagnose as it requires a **clinical examination** and **multiple laboratory tests**. The syndrome may include:

- A child presenting with persistent fever, inflammation, and evidence of single or multi-organ dysfunction. This may include children meeting full or partial criteria for Kawasaki disease.
- Exclusion of any other microbial cause and infections associated with myocarditis.

**Early recognition and prompt referral** to an in-patient specialist and critical care is essential. Providers should **elicit any recent history of illness with COVID-19 and known close contact with individuals who are known to have COVID-19**.

Testing the patient for **current infection (PCR) or past exposure (IGG antibodies)** is recommended. The full MIS-C case definition has been published by the Centers for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov/mis-c/hcp/](http://www.cdc.gov/mis-c/hcp/).

## MIS-C Case Reporting

MIS-C is a category II reportable condition in Wisconsin. Wisconsin providers should report suspected cases of MIS-C to Wisconsin Department of Health Services through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), or by calling the Communicable Diseases Epidemiology Section at **(608) 267-9003**.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services continues to monitor the situation as we look for this uncommon, yet serious condition in children. Multisystem inflammatory syndrome is one of the ways that **COVID-19 continues to affect our communities** and is another example of why **we must all do our part to stop the spread**.

