

MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN CHILDREN (MIS-C)

Information for Providers



WHAT IS MIS-C?

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare, but serious condition where **parts of the body can become inflamed**. This could include 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. Children who are diagnosed with MIS-C **previously had COVID-19, or had been around someone with COVID-19**.



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 21 years old. **More than 70% of reported MIS-C cases have occurred in children who are Hispanic/Latino or Non-Hispanic Black**. Most cases tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.



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

See next page





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 multiorgan 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.

HOW IS MIS-C TREATED?



When someone is diagnosed with MIS-C, they **must be hospitalized** in order to get proper medical care and some **may have to be admitted to intensive care units**. Healthcare providers should provide disease-specific treatments as appropriate. The American Academy of Pediatrics has published [clinical guidance](#) on MIS-C.

CASE REPORTING

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 full [MIS-C case definition](#) has been published by the Centers for Disease Control.



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 another example of why **we must all do our part to stop the spread**.

