**Childhood Inflammatory Disease Related to COVID-19**

The State Department of Health is investigating several cases of severe illness in children and child deaths that may be related to COVID-19. There have been more than 70 reported cases in New York where children are experiencing symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome possibly due to COVID-19.

At the Governor’s direction ,The State Department of Health has issued an [advisory about this serious inflammatory disease, called "Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Associated with COVID-19,](https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/docs/2020-05-06_covid19_pediatric_inflammatory_syndrome.pdf)" to inform healthcare providers of the condition, as well as to provide guidance for testing and reporting. Health care providers, including hospitals, are required to report to the Department of Health all cases of pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome potentially associated with COVID-19 in those under 21 years of age.

New Yorkers should seek immediate care if a child has:

* Prolonged fever (more than five days)
* Difficulty feeding (infants) or is too sick to drink fluids
* Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
* Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
* Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
* Racing heart or chest pain
* Decreased amount of frequency in urine
* Lethargy, irritability or confusion

Governor Cuomo has also announced the State Department of Health is partnering with the NY Genome Center and Rockefeller University to conduct a genome and RNA sequencing study to better understand COVID-related illnesses in children and the possible genetic basis of this syndrome.