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Fever in children: Symptom Checker

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**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Symptom Checker

**Tease**

Childhood fevers are common and not necessarily a serious concern. Identify common causes of fever based on your child's symptoms.

**Abstract**

Find possible causes of fever in children. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

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**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help** (1, 2, 19; 20, p. 210)

A fever in an infant or child is generally defined as a temperature higher than:

100 F (37.8 C) with a rectal thermometer

99 F (37.2 C) with an oral thermometer

Call your doctor if your infant under 3 months of age has any fever. Also, call your doctor if your child's fever is accompanied by:

Severe headache

Seizures

Stiff neck

Confusion

Repeated vomiting or diarrhea

Irritability or significant discomfort

Any worrisome, different or unusual symptoms

Seek advice from your doctor for:

A fever that seems to last longer than is typical (approximately three days)

A fever that seems to be less responsive to medication than is typical

**Self-care strategies** (1, 2, 19)

The goal for treating a fever is to make your child less uncomfortable and better able to rest. These self-care strategies may help:

Encourage your child to drink water or juice or to suck on frozen ice pops.

Dress your child in lightweight clothing.

If your child feels chilled, use a light blanket until the chills end.

Give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, others) — not aspirin — as directed on the label.

Give your child a lukewarm bath.

**More Information**

Fever DS00077

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Find possible causes of fever based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your child's symptoms.

**Accompanied by**

Abdominal pain or cramping

Bloody or cloudy urine

Bloody stools

Chest pain or tightness

Chills

Confusion

Cough

Decreased energy or fatigue

Diarrhea

Ear pain or discharge

Frequent or painful urination

Headache

Loss of appetite

Muscle aches

Nausea or vomiting

Night sweats

Rapid heartbeat

Rapid or difficult breathing

Rash

Red, swollen tonsils

Red spots at the back of the roof of the mouth

Runny or stuffy nose

Shortness of breath

Sneezing

Sore throat

Stiff neck

Swollen glands (lymph nodes) in neck

Watery or itchy eyes

Wheezing

White patches or pus on tonsils

**Possible causes**

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first.

DS00481 Bronchiolitis (3, p. 4; 4)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by rapid heartbeat

Accompanied by rapid or difficult breathing

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by wheezing

DS00056 Common cold (5, 6)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by sneezing

Accompanied by sore throat

Accompanied by watery or itchy eyes

DS00303 Ear infection, middle ear (3, p. 288; 7)

Accompanied by ear pain or discharge

Accompanied by headache

DS00081 Influenza (flu) (8)

Accompanied by chills

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by loss of appetite

Accompanied by muscle aches

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by sore throat

DS00118 Meningitis (3, p. 446; 9)

Accompanied by confusion

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by stiff neck

DS00352 Mononucleosis (10)

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by loss of appetite

Accompanied by night sweats

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by red, swollen tonsils

Accompanied by sore throat

Accompanied by swollen glands (lymph nodes) in neck

DS00135 Pneumonia (3, p. 7-8; 11)

Accompanied by chest pain or tightness

Accompanied by chills

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by muscle aches

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by shortness of breath

Accompanied by sore throat

DS00414 Respiratory syncytial virus (12)

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by rapid heartbeat

Accompanied by rapid or difficult breathing

Accompanied by runny or stuffy nose

Accompanied by wheezing

DS00452 Roseola (13)

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by loss of appetite

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by swollen glands (lymph nodes) in neck

DS00783 Rotavirus (3, p. 455; 14)

Accompanied by bloody stools

Accompanied by decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00260 Strep throat (15)

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by red, swollen tonsils

Accompanied by red spots at the back of the roof of the mouth

Accompanied by sore throat

Accompanied by swollen glands (lymph nodes) in neck

Accompanied by white patches or pus on tonsils

DS00273 Tonsillitis (16)

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by red, swollen tonsils

Accompanied by red spots at the back of the roof of the mouth

Accompanied by sore throat

Accompanied by swollen glands (lymph nodes) in neck

Accompanied by white patches or pus on tonsils

DS00286 Urinary tract infection (17)

Accompanied by abdominal pain or cramping

Accompanied by bloody or cloudy urine

Accompanied by frequent or painful urination

DS00085 Viral gastroenteritis (stomach flu) (18)

Accompanied by abdominal pain or cramping

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by loss of appetite

Accompanied by muscle aches

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

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PAGE 4