



Home → Health Topics → Fever

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/fever.html>

## Fever

Also called: Pyrexia

A fever is a body temperature that is higher than normal. A normal temperature can vary from person to person, but it is usually around 98.6 °F (37 °C). A fever is not a disease. It is usually a sign that your body is trying to fight an illness or infection.

Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/infectiousdiseases.html>] cause most fevers. You get a fever because your body is trying to kill the virus or bacteria that caused the infection. Most of those bacteria and viruses do well when your body is at your normal temperature. But if you have a fever, it is harder for them to survive. Fever also activates your body's immune system.

Other causes of fevers include:

- Medicines, including some antibiotics [<https://medlineplus.gov/antibiotics.html>] , blood pressure medicines [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodpressuremedicines.html>] , and anti-seizure medicines
- Heat illness [<https://medlineplus.gov/heatillness.html>]
- Cancers
- Autoimmune diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/autoimmunediseases.html>]
- Some childhood vaccines [<https://medlineplus.gov/childhoodvaccines.html>]

Treatment depends on the cause of your fever. If the fever is very high, your health care provider may recommend taking an over-the-counter medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Adults can also take aspirin, but children with fevers should not take aspirin. It is also important to drink enough liquids, to prevent dehydration [<https://medlineplus.gov/dehydration.html>]

## Start Here

- Fever [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/fever/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)  
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/fiebre/?adfree=true>]
- Fever [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/fever/symptoms-causes/syc-20352759?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/fever/symptoms-causes/syc-20352759?p=1>]
- Fever (High Temperature) In Kids [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/fever.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/fever.html>]

## Diagnosis and Tests

- Fever [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/fever/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)  
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/fiebre/?adfree=true>]
- Fever in Infants and Children [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/fever-infants-children/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)  
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/fiebre-en-lactantes-y-ninos/?adfree=true>]

## Treatments and Therapies

- Fever Treatment: Quick Guide to Treating a Fever [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/fever/in-depth/fever/ART-20050997?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/fever/in-depth/fever/art-20050997?p=1>]
- Fever: First Aid [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-fever/basics/ART-20056685?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/first-aid/first-aid-fever/basics/art-20056685?p=1>]
- Thermometers: Understand the Options [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/fever/in-depth/thermometers/ART-20046737?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/fever/in-depth/thermometers/art-20046737?p=1>]

## Specifics

- Cryopyrin-Associated Autoinflammatory Syndromes (CAPS) [<https://rheumatology.org/patients/cryopyrin-associated-autoinflammatory-syndromes-caps>] (American College of Rheumatology)  
Also in Spanish [<https://rheumatology.org/patients/sindromes-autoinflamatorios-asociados-a-la-criopirina>]
- Familial Mediterranean Fever [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/familial-mediterranean-fever/symptoms-causes/syc-20372470?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/familial-mediterranean-fever/symptoms-causes/syc-20372470?p=1>]
- Periodic Fever, Aphthous Stomatitis, Pharyngitis, Adenitis Syndrome (PFAPA) (Juvenile) [<https://rheumatology.org/patients/periodic-fever-aphthous-stomatitis-pharyngitis-adenitis-syndrome-pfapa-juvenile>] (American College of Rheumatology)  
Also in Spanish [<https://rheumatology.org/patients/sindrome-de-fiebre-periodica-estomatitis-aftosa-faringitis-y-adenitis-cervical>]

## Genetics

- **New!** Cryopyrin-associated periodic syndromes: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cryopyrin-associated-periodic-syndromes/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Familial Mediterranean fever: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/familial-mediterranean-fever/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Mevalonate kinase deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/mevalonate-kinase-deficiency/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Nakajo-Nishimura syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/nakajo-nishimura-syndrome/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated periodic syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/tumor-necrosis-factor-receptor-associated-periodic-syndrome/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Yao syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/yao-syndrome/>]  (National Library of Medicine)

## Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Fever [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Fever%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Development of a machine learning-based prediction model for serious bacterial infections... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40738607>]
- Article: Hyperthermia Augments the H1-Histamine Receptor-Mediated Force in the Human Atrium. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40725085>]

• Article: Seroprevalence of dengue virus infection among febrile patients visiting healthcare facilities... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40721752]

- Fever -- see more articles [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Fever%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+]

## Find an Expert

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [https://www.niaid.nih.gov/]



## Children

- Acetaminophen Overdose Is Serious and It Can Happen More Easily Than You Might Think [https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/in-depth/acetaminophen/art-20046721?p=1] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/in-depth/acetaminophen/art-20046721?p=1]
- Febrile Seizures [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/febrile-seizures]  
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Fever (High Temperature) In Kids [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/fever.html]  
 (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/fever.html]
- Fevers (For Kids) [https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/fever.html] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/fever.html]
- How to Take a Rectal Temperature [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/rectal-temperature.html]  
 (Nemours Foundation)
- How to Take an Axillary (Armpit) Temperature [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/axillary-temperature.html]  
 (Nemours Foundation)
- How to Take an Oral Temperature [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/oral-temperature.html]  
 (Nemours Foundation)
- Taking Your Child's Temperature [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/take-temperature.html]  
 (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/take-temperature.html]

## Women

- Fever/Hyperthermia and Pregnancy [https://mothertobaby.org/fact-sheets/hyperthermia-pregnancy/] (Organization of Teratology Information Specialists)  
Also in Spanish [https://mothertobaby.org/es/hojas-informativas/la-hipertermia/pdf/]

## Patient Handouts

- Familial Mediterranean fever [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000363.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000363.htm]
- Fever [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003090.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003090.htm]
- When your baby or infant has a fever [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000319.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000319.htm]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Familial Mediterranean fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000363.htm>]

Fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003090.htm>]

Temperature measurement [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003400.htm>]

When your baby or infant has a fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000319.htm>]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Fever* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

## Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/fever.html>] on *Fever*

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our disclaimer

[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our quality guidelines

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>].

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)