

When to call your doctor if your child has a fever

Note: The following are guidelines only. Your child's general appearance and the way he/she is acting are more important indicators of illness than the height of the fever. You should always call if your child looks or acts significantly ill for any period of time.

CALL IMMEDIATELY IF:

- Your child looks or acts very sick for any period of time
- Your child is less than 3 months old with a temperature greater than 100.5° rectal
- Your child is 3-6 months old and the fever is 102° or greater
- Your child is less than 3 years old and the fever is over 105°
- Your child is older than 3 years and the temperature has not dropped within 45 minutes after administration of acetaminophen or ibuprofen or after sponging
- Your child is crying inconsolably
- Your child is difficult to awaken
- Your child complains of a stiff neck and cannot put his/her chin to his/her chest without pain
- Purple spots are present on the skin and do not blanch (whiten when touched)
- Breathing is difficult and no better after the nose is cleared
- Your child is unable to swallow anything and drooling saliva
- Your baby's soft spot is bulging when he/she is sitting up quietly
- Your child complains of back pain with fever
- There is redness or swelling of the eye or pain with movement of the eye
- There is tenderness, swelling, or redness over an arm or leg
- Your child walks with a limp or refuses to move a joint
- Your child's immune system is compromised (i.e. his/her spleen has been removed, he/she is undergoing chemotherapy, or is HIV positive)
- You have any other concerns which make you feel an immediate call is necessary

CALL THE NEXT MORNING IF:

- Your child is older than 3 years with a fever over 105° which responds to acetaminophen or ibuprofen (i.e. the temperature drops after administration but otherwise persists)
- Your child suffers from burning or pain during urination
- Your child complains of ear pain (note: if the ear appears swollen you should call the office immediately)
- Your child complains of sore throat and any of the following: fever, swollen glands, headache, abdominal pain, rash, or joint pain.
- Dark urine occurring 3-4 weeks after a sore throat

- Your child's fever lasts more than 48 hours without any obvious cause or infection

CALL DURING REGULAR HOURS IF:

- Your child's fever is over 101°F for more than 72 hours
- The fever abated for 24 hours, then turned
- Your child has a history of febrile seizures and you wish to review the management of fevers
- You have other concerns or questions