



When to seek medical care for children with fever



SPEAK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

When your child:

- Has a fever that lasts more than three (3) days, or more than 24 hours in a child under age two (2)
- Has a fever that won't come down with over the counter medication (acetaminophen or ibuprofen)
- Will not eat or drink
- Is unusually fussy or seems very uncomfortable
- Has other symptoms that may need to be treated, such as a sore throat, earache, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, or a cough
- Has a serious medical illness or special needs



SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION

When your child:

- Is less than three (3) months old with a fever
- Has a fever that lasts five (5) days, or more than 24 hours in a child under age two (2)
- Appears ill even after fever medication has been given (very sleepy, confused, irritable, or agitated)
- Is having trouble breathing, or breathing patterns have changed
- Is at risk of dehydration or is dehydrated
- Is complaining of headaches, neck pain or stiffness or light sensitivity
- Has a bruise-like rash on their body

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Seek immediate medical attention if your child is less than three (3) months old and has a fever.
- You know your child best. If you feel something is wrong, contact your healthcare provider, go to the nearest emergency department or call 911 immediately.
- Our hospitals are always here for you if you need emergency medical care.
- Visit [Health 811](#) online or call 811 for access to a Registered Nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For more information about your healthcare options, visit our website: haltonhealthcare.com
- The information on this page is intended as a guideline only.

For more information on when to speak to your healthcare provider or when to seek immediate medical attention visit: aboutkidshealth.ca, a trusted resource on children's health by the Hospital for Sick Children | SickKids.

