

Colds, the Flu, and Other Infections



The Right Call Every Time. Your Medical Home.

REMEMBER you can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This advice is for children over 6 months old. If your baby is less than 6 months old, call your doctor.

COLDS

Colds have many symptoms all at the same time:

- red eyes and stuffy nose or runny nose
- sore throat and/or dry, hacking cough
- low fevers (100°-102°F) and mild body aches

WHAT TO DO? Make sure your child gets lots of rest and clear liquids (like broth or juice mixed with water). Antibiotics won't help. Treat the symptoms with over-the-counter expectorant and Tylenol®. If the cold isn't gone in 7 days, call the doctor for an appointment.

THE FLU

The flu has the same symptoms as colds, but worse — higher fevers (102°-104°F), worse body aches.

WHAT TO DO? If your child might have the flu, call your doctor for an appointment. If taken early, anti-flu drugs may help. To prevent flu each year, get your child a flu shot, especially if your child has special health care needs.

OTHER INFECTIONS

Some infections come with a high fever (103°-104°F) and have symptoms in only one spot. For instance, strep throat is a very sore throat without a runny nose or dry cough. A sinus infection is a very stuffy nose with facial pain. Pneumonia comes with a deep, wet cough.

WHAT TO DO? Call your doctor for an appointment. Antibiotics can help some infections. Make sure your child gets lots of rest and clear liquids.



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