

Where should I go when my child is sick?



Primary Care

Call or visit your child's primary care office for routine illnesses, well child checks, immunizations, and most urgent health concerns. **When in doubt, call your pediatrician first!**

- Abdominal pain that is mild/moderate
- Allergic reaction with no trouble breathing
- Allergies
- Asthma symptoms improving with rescue medication
- Behavior concern
- Bloody nose that won't stop
- Bug bite/sting with no trouble breathing
- Cough, cold, congestion
- Constipation
- Cuts and bruises
- Diarrhea
- Earaches or tugging at ear
- Fainting but acting normally
- Fever in children older than 2 months
- Headaches but acting normally
- Head injury if behaving normally
- Health advice
- Hives with no trouble breathing
- Minor burns
- Object stuck in nose or ear
- Pain when peeing
- Pink eye
- Rash
- Seizure that stops on its own
- Sinus infection
- Sore throat
- Sports injuries
- Sprains and strains
- Swallowed objects with no trouble breathing
- Vomiting



Urgent Care

Urgent Care is best used for concerns your pediatrician would normally treat, but that can't safely wait until the office is open.

Before going to urgent care, we encourage families to:

- Check your pediatrician's website for symptom based guidance
- Call your pediatrician's after hours phone number
- Use the Children's Mercy Nurse Line for advice on next steps



Emergency Room or Call 911

Go to the Emergency Room or Call 911 for serious life or limb threatening conditions.

- Abdominal pain that is severe or worsening
- Allergic reaction with trouble breathing or vomiting
- Asthma attack with trouble breathing after treatment
- Breathing trouble or blue lips/fingers
- Broken bone
- Bug bite/sting with trouble breathing
- Burns (any serious, electrical, or acid burns)
- Concern for abuse or neglect
- Cuts that won't stop bleeding
- Dehydration (dry mouth, no tears, no wet diapers for 18 hours)
- Difficulty responding or waking up
- Eye injury
- Fever in children younger than 60 days old
- Head injury with persistent vomiting or behavior change
- Headache (severe) or migraine with concerning features such as stiff neck, fever, confusion, or repeated vomiting
- Hives with trouble breathing
- Ingestions (Call Poison Control first: 1-800-222-1222)
- Numbness, paralysis, weakness or vision loss
- Object stuck in eye (don't pull it out)
- Seizures that won't stop or new seizure
- Slurred speech or trouble speaking
- Suicide attempt or threat to self or others
- Swallowed any object with trouble breathing
- Swallowed battery