

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Connect](#)
- [Categories](#)
- [Newsroom](#)



# BLOG

A hub for pediatric health care information

[Emergency Services/Trauma](#)

## FEVER IN CHILDREN: WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

[No comments yet, your thoughts are welcome.](#) 27 January 2014

2

Share

4

Tweet

4

Share



Knowing when to seek medical attention when your child has a high fever can be a scary and confusing decision for new and seasoned parents.

Susan Scott, M.D., attending physician in the [Emergency Department](#) at Children's Medical Center, says the first step to treating a child with a high fever is to lower the fever with an antipyretic such as ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) and encourage fluids.

The vast majority of infectious diseases that present with high fever are viral and are accompanied by coughing, congestion, vomiting or diarrhea. Fever can also accompany an ear infection or strep throat as well as less common infections such as pneumonia.

Reducing fever will not help your child get rid of the infection causing fever, but it will relieve the discomfort associated with it and allow for an opportunity

to re-evaluate your child's symptoms.

## Time to Visit the Doctor

If your child's temperature lasts longer than two to three days, or your child still feels badly even after the fever is lowered, then Dr. Scott recommends visiting the doctor that knows your child best, their primary physician.

Parents of a child younger than 3 months of age should call the health care provider immediately if their child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher.

## Child Thermometers

Dr. Scott advises that the best way to get an accurate temperature reading for an infant is with a rectal thermometer. For older children, under arm, oral or tympanic thermometers are easy and accurate.



Susan Scott, M.D.

Dr. Scott completed her pediatric residency and pediatric emergency medicine fellowship at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Children's Medical Center Dallas. She has received numerous honors and awards including the Outstanding Faculty Award from UT Southwestern Medical Center. She is a member of the Texas Pediatric Society's Committee on Emergency Medicine.

For more on what Dr. Scott has to say about fever and children, watch [Facts about Fevers When Dealing With Children](#) on *Good Morning Texas*.

## Related Posts

- [Flu Season: 6 Things Parents Should Know](#)
- [Flu, Strep, SRV: Know When to Go to the ER](#)

Tags: [fever](#), [viral infection](#)

Author

### [Janet Janes Davis](#)

[Janet Janes Davis](#) - who has written 4 posts on [Children's Medical Center Dallas Blog](#).

Janet Janes Davis began her writing career by covering medical advances for a community hospital on the south side of Chicago. Now, as a member of the Children's Medical Center blog team, Janet enjoys sharing information designed to help parents make life better for children.

[Contact the author](#)

« [Colorful Cookie Decorating Without Food Dye](#)  
[Children's Achieves HITRUST CSF Certified Status for Information Security](#) »

Share your view

## Post a comment

Name \*

Mail (will not be published) \*

Website

Message\*

### Emergency Center

Contact: 214-456-2100

- Approximately 14,000 injured children are seen in the Emergency Center annually at Children's.

### Trauma Center

Contact: 214-456-8160

- Children's Medical Center Dallas is the first pediatric hospital in Texas with a designated Level I Trauma Center.
- Approximately 1,300 injured children are admitted annually to the Trauma Center at Children's.
- Pediatric trauma education for physicians is provided at Children's.

### Pediatric Trauma

## Recent Posts

- [Give Minority Patients a Better Chance at Finding a Stem Cell Donor](#)
- [Does My Child Have GERD or EoE?](#)
- [6 Ways to Help Your Child Avoid Headache Triggers](#)
- [6 Ways to Help Your Family Stay Healthy During Flu Season \[INFOGRAPHIC\]](#)
- [Monthly Flashback 2014](#)

## Follow Us



## Published By



## Corporate Address

1935 Medical District Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75235  
(214) 456-7000

[View Map](#)

[www.childrens.com](http://www.childrens.com)

## Locations

[Children's Medical Center Dallas](#)  
[Children's Medical Center at Legacy](#)  
[Specialty Care Center in Southlake](#)  
[MyChildren's Primary Care](#)

## Quick Links

[Terms of Use](#)  
[Find a Doctor](#)  
[Careers](#)  
[Media](#)  
[Giving](#)

Children's Med Dallas is published by [Children's Medical Center of Dallas](#). ©2014 Children's Medical Center of Dallas. All rights reserved.

This site is not written or maintained by a physician. Any information relating to diagnoses, treatments and care of patients should not be considered medical advice, nor is it intended to replace consultation with a qualified physician or other healthcare provider. For more information about the healthcare-related topics discussed here, please consult with your child's physician. Children's Medical Center is not responsible for user-generated content or comments. For more information on use of our social platforms, read [Terms of Use](#).

