

WHEN TO GO TO YOUR PEDIATRICIAN

As a general rule of thumb, **turn to your pediatrician's office first—even after hours.** Most pediatrician offices have an after-hours call line to help parents decide whether their child needs to be seen right away or if the issue can wait to be treated the next day during regular hours by the primary care provider.

Common ailments that can typically wait until the next day when you're able to make an appointment with your pediatrician include:

- Ear pain
- Vomiting
- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Runny nose
- Eye drainage
- Sore throat
- Fussy baby
- Fever in children over 1 year



WHEN TO GO TO URGENT CARE

When your primary care physician's office is closed and you need some peace of mind, visit an urgent care. Urgent cares are set up to assist **patients with injuries or illnesses that do not appear to be serious or life-threatening**, but can't wait until morning.

Common conditions that can be treated at urgent care include:

- Minor illness or injury
- Fractures or broken bones that are not crooked and do not cause severe pain
- Worsening fever in infants ages 2 months to 1 year
- Sprains or minor pains
- Minor burns
- Minor asthma
- Small cuts



WHEN TO GO TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

By contrast, emergency departments (EDs) are for people with life-threatening needs. Take your child to an ED anytime you think **the problem needs immediate attention.**

Take your child to the ED for the following conditions:

- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Blue or purple lips, skin or fingernails
- Chest or stomach pain or pressure
- Seizures
- Animal, snake or human bites
- Severe bleeding or burns
- Head, spinal cord or eye injuries
- Infants under 2 months of age with a fever
- Signs of allergic reaction such as hives; swelling of the face, lips, eyes or tongue; fainting or trouble breathing
- Uncontrolled pain

