

Allergic Rashes

When to call your child's doctor about a rash

Some rashes are signs of a more serious illness that needs to be treated right away. If your child has a rash that sounds like any of the ones described below, call the doctor.

Call the doctor if your child's rash:

- Has raised red or purple spots that do not turn white (blanch) when you push on them.
- Forms blisters.
- Is on the face.
- Is crusting over, or oozing honey-colored fluid.
- Looks like a target or bull's-eye, with the center part white (no rash on this part of the skin).
- Is on the palms of the hands or the soles of the feet.
- Looks like hives or an allergic reaction.

Call the doctor if your child has a rash AND:

- Has a fever. (See Fever section)
- Immunizations are not up to date.
- Was recently started on a new medicine.
- Has a sore throat.
- Is having difficulty breathing or says her throat feels tight.
- Has other family members (or people living in the house) with the same rash.
- Has a rash that won't go away or is spreading.
- The rash covers most of their body.

Dial 911 if you think your child is having a serious allergic reaction. Signs of this are hives with difficulty breathing, swelling of the lips or tongue, and feeling like the throat is tight and closing.

Call 911 for immediate help. If your child carries an EpiPen®, give the shot right away.

Call

Allergic Rashes

A child may get a rash when she touches something to which she has an allergy. The rash may appear several hours after the exposure. It may look red and itchy, and can have little blisters. Common things that can cause an allergic rash in children are:

- Dyes in clothing.
- Flavoring added to food.
- Nickel in jewelry, buttons, or snaps.
- Plants: poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac.
- Medications.

When a rash appears quickly, call your doctor and make a list of things the child has touched in last few days.

Serious Allergies

When a child has a serious allergic reaction you must be able to recognize the symptoms and react immediately.

Some children have serious allergic reactions to:

- Bee stings
- Drugs: Antibiotics
- Food: peanuts, shellfish

The Facts:

Dial 911 if your child has these serious warning signs and appears to be having a serious allergic reaction. If your child carries an EpiPen® give the shot right away.

- Severe difficulty breathing (wheezing)
- Feeling tightness in chest and throat
- Breaking out in rash (hives), swelling, or itching over most of the body.
- Dizziness or loss of consciousness
- Swelling of the lips and tongue