



Dear Colleague,

You may have heard about a rare but very serious syndrome in children and teens that is associated with the Coronavirus. *At this time, we are not aware of any information on the incidence of this new Coronavirus syndrome that is specific to children with I/DD.* **Please note that there is much variation in the symptoms experienced by children who have been diagnosed with this new Coronavirus syndrome. Parents are urged to contact their child's health care provider quickly if they have any concerns about their child's health.**

The signs and symptoms of this new Coronavirus syndrome may include some of the following (but there may also be other symptoms):

- persistent high fever
- a rash
- red eyes
- abdominal pain
- skin peeling on hands or feet


Furthermore, this syndrome may begin weeks after the child had the Coronavirus. If the child was asymptomatic, the parents may not know that the child had been infected.

The New York Times published a case study of a previously healthy 14-year-old who developed this severe syndrome in mid-April. See the article here:

5/18/2020 "Straight-Up Fire" in His Veins: Teen Battles New Coronavirus Syndrome - The New York Times  
The New York Times <https://nyti.ms/2LCl3gG>

**'Straight-Up Fire' in His Veins: Teen Battles New Covid Syndrome**

Jack McMorrow, 14, awoke in agony, with heart failure. His case may help doctors understand a frightening new affliction in children linked to the coronavirus.

 **By Pam Belluck**

May 17, 2020

When a sprinkling of a reddish rash appeared on Jack McMorrow's hands in mid-April, his father figured the 14-year-old was overusing hand sanitizer — not a bad thing during a global pandemic.

When Jack's parents noticed that his eyes looked glossy, they attributed it to late nights of video games and TV.

When he developed a stomachache and didn't want dinner, "they thought it was because I ate too many cookies or whatever," said Jack, a ninth grader in Woodside, Queens, who loves Marvel Comics and has ambitions to teach himself "Stairway to Heaven" on the guitar.

But over the next 10 days, Jack felt increasingly unwell. His parents consulted his pediatricians in video appointments and took him to a weekend urgent care clinic. Then, one morning, he awoke unable to move.

He had a tennis-ball-size lymph node, raging fever, racing heartbeat and dangerously low blood pressure. Pain deluged his body in "a throbbing, stinging rush," he said.

"You could feel it going through your veins and it was almost like someone injected you with straight-up fire," he said.

Jack, who was previously healthy, was hospitalized with heart failure that day, in a stark example of the newly discovered severe inflammatory syndrome linked to the coronavirus that has already been identified in about 200 children in the United States and Europe and killed several.

The condition, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are calling Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, has shaken widespread confidence that children were largely spared from the pandemic. Instead of targeting lungs as the primary coronavirus infection does, it causes inflammation throughout the body and can cripple the heart. It has been compared to a rare childhood inflammatory illness called Kawasaki disease, but doctors have learned that the new syndrome affects the heart differently and erupts mostly in school-age children, rather than infants and toddlers. The syndrome often appears weeks after infection in children who did not experience first-phase coronavirus symptoms.

At a Senate hearing last week, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, a leader of the government's coronavirus response, warned that because of the syndrome, "we've got to be careful that we are not cavalier and thinking that children are completely immune to the deleterious effects."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has described this illness as: "Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)." The CDC information on MIS-C for pediatric providers is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>.

Please share this information with others who may also be interested.

Thank you,

Bev

Beverly Roberts  
Director, Mainstreaming Medical Care  
The Arc of New Jersey  
985 Livingston Avenue  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
[www.mainstreamingmedicalcare.org](http://www.mainstreamingmedicalcare.org)