

**Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation
Division of Epidemiology–Disease Surveillance and Investigation**

May 11, 2020

**Health Notice for District of Columbia Health Care Providers
Interim Guidance Regarding Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome
Possibly Associated with COVID-19**

SUMMARY

This guidance outlines current information and reporting requirements of a pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome that may be related to COVID-19. Recent reports from the United Kingdom and across the United States identify previously well children and young adults exhibiting clinical features of Kawasaki Disease, Incomplete Kawasaki Disease, or Shock-like presentation with a portion of them being positive for SARS-CoV-2 either by PCR or serology. Specific clinical signs and symptoms of this syndrome include persistent fever (4 days or more) and elevated inflammatory markers. Other reported clinical features include respiratory distress, rash, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, and myalgia. Hemodynamic instability and respiratory failure are the life threatening sequela of this syndrome.

Over a two week period in New York City, 15 patients between 2 – 15 years of age suspected of this syndrome were hospitalized, in which eight required blood pressure support and five required mechanical ventilation.¹ No deaths were reported. While only four patients tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by PCR, serology was positive for an additional six patients who initially tested negative by PCR. Evelina London Children's Hospital in the United Kingdom has reported 20 or more children with this syndrome presentation, in which ten have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 antibody.²

In the District of Columbia, one child living in DC has been identified as potentially having pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome. This child was positive for SARS-CoV-2 and required critical care intervention.³ This health notice provides the most recent updates on this topic and new reporting requirements for DC healthcare providers.

Diagnosis

DC Health recommends using the following "May 2nd Pediatric Intensive Care-COVID-19 International Collaborative"⁴ case definition of Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome:

1. A child presenting with persistent fever, inflammation (neutrophilia, elevated CRP, and lymphopenia) and evidence of single or multi-organ dysfunction (shock, cardiac, respiratory, renal, gastrointestinal or neurological disorder) with additional features. This may include children fulfilling full or partial criteria for Kawasaki disease.
2. Exclusion of any other microbial cause, including bacterial sepsis, staphylococcal or streptococcal shock syndromes, infections associated with myocarditis such as enterovirus (waiting for results of these investigations should not delay seeking expert advice).
3. SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing may be positive or negative

Clinical Considerations

Early diagnosis and aggressive management is important to improve pediatric morbidity and mortality. If a healthcare provider suspects this syndrome, immediate management steps should include ensuring hemodynamic and respiratory stability as well as undertaking close care coordination with pediatric infectious disease, pediatric cardiology, and pediatric critical care specialists.

Reporting

In the public health interest of District of Columbia and per the regulatory authority in DCMR 22-B201.1, all providers should immediately report any patients suspected of having pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome to DC Health through the Notifiable Disease and Condition Case Report Form (<https://redcap.doh.dc.gov/surveys/index.php/surveys/?s=DHNA4X8LJC>) or by calling 202-576-1117.

References

1. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/alert/2020/covid-19-pediatric-multi-system-inflammatory-syndrome.pdf>
2. Riphagen S, Gomez X, et al. Hyperinflammatory shock in children during COVID_19 pandemic. The Lancet. May 07, 2020. Available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31094-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31094-1/fulltext)
3. DC Health correspondence with Children's National Hospital, Washington, D.C.
4. Statement to the Media following the 2 May Pediatric Intensive Care-COVID-19 International Collaborative Conference Call - <http://www.wfpiccs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-statement-Final.pdf>

**Please contact DC Health regarding COVID-19 at:
Phone: 202-576-1117 Fax: 202-442-8060 | Email: coronavirus@dc.gov**