

Fever: Red Flags

When fever needs urgent medical attention

Seek urgent assessment for fever with

- Difficulty breathing or severe chest pain.
- Confusion, seizure, extreme drowsiness or stiff neck.
- Persistent vomiting, severe dehydration or inability to drink.
- Purple/non-blanching rash or signs of shock.
- Severe abdominal pain or rapidly worsening illness.
- Pregnancy with significant fever or any very young infant with fever.

Fever is a symptom, not a diagnosis. The cause and the patient's overall condition matter more than the thermometer number alone.

Important: This resource is for general education and does not replace an individual medical consultation. Seek urgent medical care for severe, rapidly worsening or emergency symptoms.