



South Central Public Health District
1020 Washington Street North
Twin Falls, ID 83301
208-737-5900
www.phd5.idaho.gov



NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First confirmed cases of MIS-C associated with COVID-19 case in South Central Health District

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and St. Luke's Health System confirms two cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C) with cases of COVID-19. Both children were hospitalized. To protect the privacy of the children and their family, no other patient information will be released at this time.

MIS-C is a rare health condition that has affected some children and teenagers who have contracted COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children with MIS-C may experience inflammation in several areas of the body including the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys and other major organs. The cause of this condition is currently unknown.

"We are concerned that these exceptionally serious cases are occurring. We are fortunate to have experienced pediatric subspecialists available in our community to care for these children and keep them and their families close to home. Please continue to be vigilant about preventive measures. They do make a difference," said Dr. Kenny Bramwell, Medical Director for St. Luke's Children's.

MIS-C was first reported in the United states in May, 2020. Idaho's first suspected case was reported in August, and later confirmed.

"We are seeing more and more young people contract and spread COVID-19. MIS-C is a complication from the disease that can cause serious health issues in our youngest Idahoans," said Tanis Maxwell, SCPHD epidemiologist. "Simple actions, like wearing a mask and social distancing, protect all of us. Including our children."

Age when illness began



Data reflects confirmed and probable cases of children between the ages of zero and 17 in south central Idaho. Case dates are based on when individuals reported their symptoms started.

SCPHD continues to urge residents to take precautions to protect themselves and their community from COVID-19. These precautions include:

- Keeping six feet away from people you don't live with.
- Wearing a mask when they interact with people outside their home, especially in public areas like grocery stores and when you cannot social distance.
- Staying home when you are sick or if you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Washing your hands well and regularly, especially immediately after returning home.

On May 18th, 2020, SCPHD sent a health alert informing healthcare providers of the condition and requesting all providers report suspected cases of MIS-C to public health. Symptoms of MIS-C include fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, and feeling tired. SCPHD recommends all parents learn and watch for the signs of this condition in their children.

Seek emergency care immediately if they have trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, are unable to wake or stay awake, have bluish lips or face, have severe abdominal pain.

Learn more about MIS-C here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/mis-c.html>

Please refer to <https://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus> for the latest local numbers and <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/> for statewide information and guidance.