

# New surveillance case definition developed for MIS-C

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A new surveillance case definition for multisystem inflammatory

syndrome in children (MIS-C) associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection has been developed, according to research published in the Dec. 16 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Michael Melgar, M.D., from the CDC COVID-19 Response Team, and colleagues have developed a Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and CDC position statement that includes an MIS-C surveillance case definition for voluntary reporting to the CDC, which comes into effect Jan. 1, 2023.

The methods used to develop the definition included convening MIS-C clinical experts regarding identification of MIS-C and its distinction from other pediatric conditions, a review of the literature comparing the MIS-C phenotype to that of other syndromes, and retrospective application of different criteria to data from previously reported MIS-C cases. The authors note that four important changes are included in the CSTE/CDC surveillance case definition versus the 2020 CDC MIS-C case definition: (1) no required duration of subjective or measured fever; (2) requirement for C-reactive protein  $\geq 3.0$  mg/dL; (3) adjustments to criteria of organ system involvement to include shock as a distinct category and eliminate respiratory, neurologic, and renal criteria; and (4) new requirements of timing of positive SARS-CoV-2 laboratory testing relative to MIS-C.

"Continued surveillance will be crucial as new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern emerge and circulate in the United States and vaccination recommendations expand to include [younger children](#), potentially altering the epidemiology of MIS-C," the authors write.

**More information:** Michael Melgar et al, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists/CDC Surveillance Case Definition for

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Associated with SARS-CoV-2 Infection—United States, *MMWR. Recommendations and Reports* (2022). [DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.rr7104a1](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7104a1)

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