

# Kawasaki Disease

Mucotaneous Lymph Node Syndrome

# FACTSHEET

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## What is Kawasaki Disease?

Kawasaki disease is an acute febrile rash illness. The cause of the illness is thought to be infectious or toxic in origin.

## Who gets Kawasaki Disease?

Kawasaki Disease occurs most frequently in infants and children under the age of five. Boys seem to be more affected than girls. The disease is seen most frequently in the winter and spring.

## What are the symptoms of Kawasaki Disease?

The symptoms of Kawasaki disease include high spiking fevers that do not respond to antibiotics. The fever lasts more than five days and is accompanied by irritability, swollen lymph nodes, red eyes usually without drainage, dry cracked lips, and a red "strawberry" tongue. A rash is also present. The hands and feet may swell and peeling of the skin on the fingers, palms and soles of the feet may occur.

## How is Kawasaki Disease spread?

It is unknown how Kawasaki Disease is spread. There is no firm evidence that the disease is spread from person to person.

## How soon do symptoms appear?

It is unknown how long it takes for symptoms to appear once exposed to the causative agent of the disease.

## Is a person with Kawasaki Disease contagious?

No, it is unlikely that Kawasaki Disease can be passed from one person to another.

## How is Kawasaki Disease treated?

Most patients are treated in the hospital where they can be closely monitored. It is best to start treatment early. Medication to decrease inflammation is commonly given.

## Should a child with Kawasaki Disease be excluded from childcare or school?

During the acute phase of the disease the child is too ill to attend childcare or school. Once the acute phase is over it is not necessary to exclude the child from childcare or school.

## Can Kawasaki Disease be prevented?

At the present time, preventive measures are unknown.

## Want more information?

Information about Kawasaki Disease and other related health topics can be found at the website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The DC Department of Health promotes the health and safety of the District residents. For additional information, please call 202-442-9371.

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