

How to care for your sick child

West Virginia Antibiotic Informed Management (WVAIM)



Symptoms of a cold:

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Not wanting to eat
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Fussiness on-and-off
- Swollen glands

How to treat a cold at home:

- Allow extra sleep
- Drink lots of fluids
- Avoid cigarette smoke
- Warm washcloth over forehead
- Ice chips or throat lozenges for children over 6
- Over the counter medicines – ask your pharmacist for recommendations and how much to give

Most symptoms should go away slowly after 7-10 days

WHEN TO CALL A DOCTOR OR GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM:

If your child is younger than 3 months and has a fever over **100.4°F**, always call your doctor right away!

When to take your child to the doctor for mild illnesses:

Sore Throat:

- Lasts more than 1 week
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing
- Pus on the back of the throat

Ear Infection:

- Lasts more than 2-3 days
- Fever **102.2°F** or higher
- Severe pain
- Fluid coming out of the ear

Cold, Cough, Runny Nose:

- Lasts more than 10 days
- Trouble breathing
- Symptoms that are severe or unusual

Watch for emergency warning signs that require medical care:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish, purplish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not urinating, no tears when crying

- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or interacting
- Temperature over **104°F**