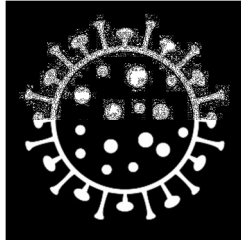


National Public Health Emergency Team



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

21 May 2020

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Action required

- For noting
- For discussion
- For decision



Paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome and SARS-CoV-2 infection in children and young people

On the 28th of April, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) alerted paediatricians, general practitioners, consultants in emergency medicine and directors of public health to details on the emergence of a newly described paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (PIMS) in children and young people. The presenting signs and symptoms are a mix of the ones for Kawasaki Disease and toxic shock syndrome and are characterised by fever, abdominal pain and cardiac involvement. Following this, the Department has been informed of 7 children / young people in Ireland who have developed symptoms compatible with this illness. While two children required admission to intensive care, all young people with this illness have now recovered and have been discharged home. On the 15th May the World Health Organization published a scientific brief and a preliminary case definition which required both clinical signs and symptoms and evidence of COVID-19 infection or evidence of likely contact with patients with COVID-19¹. Only one of the Irish possible cases had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, the results of serological testing are awaited.

On the 15th May the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) published a rapid risk assessment on PIMS and assessed the overall risk of PIMS in children in the EU as low, based on a very low probability of PIMS in children and a high impact of such disease.² ECDC advise that to date an association between SARS- CoV-2 infection and this new clinical entity of multisystem inflammation in young people has not yet been established, although an association appears plausible. Currently there is no agreed EU case definition. The HPSC are developing an interim case definition for discussion and agreement at the Expert Advisory Group to NPHET. The interim case definition will likely include all possible cases based on symptoms, whether laboratory confirmed or not and will include children and young people up to the age of 24. ECDC advise that as the onset of PIMS is estimated to be 2-4 weeks post COVID-19 infection, there may be further cases detected. Parents should be aware that signs of the illness include fever with possible symptoms of rash, red eyes, lethargy, abdominal pain with or without vomiting or diarrhea and if concerned they should discuss with their family doctor. PIMS is a rare condition and the potential link with COVID-19 is neither established nor well understood.

¹ WHO reference number: WHO/2019-nCoV/Sci_Brief/Multisystem_Syndrome_Children/2020.1

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/multisystem-inflammatory-syndrome-in-children-and-adolescents-with-covid-19>

² European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome and SARS-CoV-2 infection in children – 15 May 2020. ECDC: Stockholm; 2020. ©

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19-risk-assessment-paediatric-inflammatory-multisystem-syndrome-15-May-2020.pdf>

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