

Dear colleague

Significant Alert in respect of Children and Paediatric Shock – For Urgent Action

The following information has been sent to us in relation to children presenting with unusual symptoms. **Abdominal pain and gastrointestinal symptoms have been a common feature, as has cardiac inflammation.** We thought it was extremely important to bring this information to your attention in primary care.

Please refer children presenting with these symptoms as a matter of urgency.

It has been reported, that over the last three weeks, there has been an apparent rise in the number of children of all ages presenting with a multisystem inflammatory state requiring intensive care across London and also in other regions of the UK.

The cases have in common overlapping features of toxic shock syndrome and atypical Kawasaki Disease with blood parameters consistent with severe COVID-19 in children.

Abdominal pain and gastrointestinal symptoms have been a common feature, as has cardiac inflammation. This has been observed in children with confirmed PCR positive SARS-CoV-2 infection, as well as children who are PCR negative. Serological evidence of possible preceding SARS-CoV-2 infection has also been observed.

There is a growing concern that a SARS-CoV-2 related inflammatory syndrome is emerging in children in the UK, or that there may be another, as yet unidentified, infectious pathogen associated with these cases.

Please do refer patients as a matter of urgency if you encounter any children presenting with these types of symptoms.

Kind regards

North Central London CCGs' Incident Coordination Centre