

Fever Quick Check: When to Call a Doctor

This checklist tool can be used by direct support professionals (DSPs) or others to determine when to call the doctor about a fever-related illness.

You DON'T need to have checked most or all of these boxes to call a doctor. But even just two or three checked boxes can mean that it is time to call a doctor.



Call a Doctor If:

- A child's temperature goes above 102 degrees
- An adult's temperature goes above 101 degrees
- The fever lasts more than 24 hours without an obvious reason
- The fever lasts more than 72 hours even when there is an obvious reason
- There is any fever in an infant under three months old
- The person has a serious disease
- The person refuses to eat or drink
- The fever continues more than 48 hours after treatment is started or if the fever returns
- The condition for which the person is being treated does not start to improve after two days of treatment or if the symptoms get worse



If you are worried about an individual's health for any reason, it is always OK to call their health care provider for advice and recommendations. By catching symptoms early and making sure the individual receives the proper treatment, you can prevent a minor illness from becoming more serious.