

Hives



Cardinal Pediatrics
304-599-8000

Signs of Hives

- Raised pink or red bumps that are typically very itchy
- Range in size from approximately ½ inch across to as large as several inches across
- shape and location can change frequently

Causes of widespread or generalized

- Viruses- in fact this is one of the most common causes of hives, so if your child has other symptoms such as fever, cough, and diarrhea the hives may last for approximately 3 days and then resolve when the other symptoms clear
- Allergic reactions
 - To medications
 - To Bee stings
 - To Foods: commonly nuts, shellfish, eggs
- Unknown cause: In up to 30% of cases the cause of hives is idiopathic or unknown

When to go to ER

- Anytime that hives are associated with trouble breathing or wheezing
- Hoarse voice or cough that starts suddenly
- Trouble swallowing, drooling, and slurred speech
- If you child has had hives and has had a life threatening reaction in the past
- Or if your child looks and acts very ill

Causes of hives that occur in one spot on the body (localized)

- Irritants on the skin
- Insect Bite
- Foods- often infants can get hives around their mouth from drooling new foods
- At the site of a bee sting- which does not indicate bee allergy only a localized reaction

How to treat hives

- Give Benadryl (diphenhydramine)
- You can give this 4 times per day for hives that itch and no prescription is needed
- If you only have another allergy medicine at home such as Zyrtec or Claritin that is okay to use as well
- Continue the Benadryl 4 times per day until the hives are gone for 12 hours
- Caution: We use weight-based dosing in young children, so if you are unsure of correct dosage please call.
- Cool bath or compress can also help with itchiness
- Return to school when fever free and feeling better, they are not contagious

When to call or seek care

- When hives start after taking a prescription medication
- Hives start after eating a high-risk food. High-risk foods include nuts, fish, shellfish, or eggs.
- Your child looks or acts very sick



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Remember we are only a phone call away!