

Rashes

What are the differences between an allergic rash and infectious rash?

- **Allergic rashes**
 - can be caused by an environmental exposure, poison ivy, insect bite, certain food ingestion or a virus (the body reacts to the virus vs. a virus causing the rash)
 - usually presents as redness or hives
 - may be itchy
 - in the case of insect bites, can be swollen or inflamed
 - allergic rashes around the eye will cause significant eyelid swelling, but should not be painful
- **Infectious rashes**
 - may be caused by a virus, bacteria or fungus
 - *Example of viruses that come with a rash:* Hand Foot and Mouth Disease, Roseola, 5th's Disease
 - *Example of bacteria that come with a rash:* Scarlet fever (Strep infection), impetigo (Strep or Staph infection)
 - *Example of fungal infections with a rash:* Ringworm, diaper candidal (yeast) infection

Can rashes be dangerous?

- Very rarely! What is more important is how the child is acting. Does the child have high fevers? Is the child lethargic (can not awaken, not tired)? Is the child inconsolable? If the answer to these questions are yes, your child may need to be seen.

How are rashes treated?

- Allergic rashes- Benadryl (dosing chart on our website), hydrocortisone cream as needed
- Infectious rashes- antibiotics, antifungals or no treatment (viral)

Any other tips?

- Rashes are common! More times than not, an identifiable cause is not obvious. Children come in contact with many exposures over the course of a day.
- Rashes are difficult for doctors to diagnose over the phone! Even pictures are often difficult to judge based on scope. If you are concerned that a rash is infectious or is getting worse, it is best to get it seen in person.