

Should I take my child to the Emergency Room or Urgent Care?

The differences between urgent care and the emergency room can be confusing. So we've put together this guide to make sure your child gets the right care at the right time.*

If experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911.

EMERGENCY ROOM	URGENT CARE
<p>The emergency room is for any medical condition or injury that threatens life or limb. It's the best option when immediate medical attention is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty breathing• Loss of consciousness• Seizures• Severe abdominal pain• Severe allergic reactions• Severe burns• Severe skin infections• Sudden visual changes• High fever with headache• Fast heartbeat that doesn't slow down• Severe dehydration• Persistent dizziness	<p>Urgent Care is for illnesses or injuries that are not immediately life-threatening but need to be treated today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cold or flu symptoms• Earaches• Minor burns and bruises• Simple wounds or abrasions• Sore throats• Wheezing• Coughs• Fevers• Minor head injuries• Sprains• Vomiting• Diarrhea• Mild dehydration• COVID-19 symptomatic testing• Pediatric Virtual Care
<p>The Emergency Dept. at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital is located at 317 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA 98405.</p>	<p>For the Mary Bridge Pediatric Urgent Care nearest you, and for Virtual Care options, visit marybridge.org/urgentcare.</p>

Children who are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should not go to the Emergency Dept. for COVID-19 testing. Please refer to your local health department's website for testing sites in your area.

**When possible, contact your child's primary care provider to discuss acute care options.*

