

# Preventive tips to keep you healthy... from New London Hospital.

## What is a fever?

In most adults, an oral temperature above 100°F or a rectal or ear temperature above 101°F is considered a fever. A child has a fever when his or her rectal temperature is 100.4°F or higher.

### What can cause a fever?

A fever may occur as a reaction to:

**Infection.** This is the most common cause of a fever. Infections may affect the whole body or a specific body part (localized infection).

**Medicines,** such as antibiotics, narcotics, barbiturates, antihistamines, and many others. These are called drug fevers. Some medicines, such as antibiotics, raise the body temperature directly; others interfere with the body's ability to readjust its temperature when other factors cause the temperature to rise.

**Severe trauma or injury,** such as a heart attack, stroke, heat exhaustion or heatstroke, or burns.

**Other medical conditions,** such as arthritis, hyperthyroidism, and even some cancers, such as leukemia, Hodgkin's lymphoma, and liver and lung cancer.

Always check with your healthcare provider when you are concerned about a fever.

For more tips to help you stay well, sign up for our e-newsletter, *Discover Health* by sending your email to [Naomi.Forrestall@newlondonhospital.org](mailto:Naomi.Forrestall@newlondonhospital.org)



Source: American Medical Association  
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