

Respiratory Tract Infections

Why rescheduling your child's radiology scan (MRI, CT, Rad Fluro or IR) with anesthesia is necessary

Why is rescheduling my child's radiology scan necessary?

Giving a child sedation or anesthesia while he or she has a respiratory tract infection increases risk and could have damaging effects, resulting in hospitalization, intubation or even death. If your child is scheduled for a radiology scan under any type of anesthesia, it may be necessary to reschedule if he or she is exhibiting any symptoms of a respiratory tract infection.

How close to my child's radiology scan is an upper or lower respiratory infection deemed unsafe?

Your child should be symptom free for at least two weeks prior to the scan.

What is an upper respiratory infection?

If your child is experiencing symptoms in his or her nose and throat, they have an upper respiratory infection. An upper respiratory infection is usually caused by a virus. Antibiotics are not needed unless the infection is bacterial.

Examples include:

- Adenovirus
- Common cold
- Coronavirus
- Epiglottitis
- Flu
- Laryngitis
- Laryngotracheobronchitis
- Laryngotracheitis
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Sinus infection
- Tracheitis

Signs and symptoms include:

- Cough, runny nose **and** fever. A fever is considered to be greater than or equal to **100.4°F** (in children under 3 months old) or greater than or equal to **101.4°F** (in children over 3 months old). Hematology patients are considered to have fevers at greater than or equal to **100.6°F**.

Signs and symptoms that **DO NOT** signal an upper respiratory infection include:

- Intermittent cough
- Intermittent, clear runny nose in the middle of the day
- Intermittent congestion

What is a lower respiratory infection?

If your child is experiencing symptoms in his or her chest and lungs, they may have a lower respiratory infection. A lower respiratory infection can be viral or bacterial.

Examples include:

- Bronchiolitis (in children up to 2 years old)
- Bronchitis (in children over 2 years old)
- Flu
- Pneumonia
- Tuberculosis (TB)

Signs and symptoms include:

- Cough with phlegm/mucus
- Fever greater than or equal to **101.4°F**
- Labored breathing
- Not feeling well
- Shortness of breath
- Tightness of chest
- Wheezing (in children with no history of asthma)

If your child has experienced any of these signs and symptoms within the last two weeks, please call **832-826-5303**.



**Texas Children's
Hospital®**