



Meningococcal disease



Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that usually causes meningitis and septicaemia and despite rapid treatment it can be fatal.

For all medical emergencies dial Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for Ambulance

Meningococcal is rare and can be difficult to identify as it has a range of symptoms which can be mistaken for the flu.

If you suspect you or someone you know has meningococcal disease seek urgent medical advice or dial Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for Ambulance.

SYMPTOMS OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

- > Severe Headache
- > Fever
- > Lethargy
- > Painful limbs
- > Photophobia (sensitivity to light)
- > Stiff neck
- > Speckled rash. Although a speckled rash is common it usually occurs late in the progression of the infection, if at all, so it is important not to wait for the rash to appear before seeking medical treatment.

Remember Meningococcal is S.E.R.I.O.U.S. If any of the following applies to you or someone you know you need to seek urgent medical attention.

S – Serious concerns

E – Extremities cold or painful

R – Rapid onset of symptoms

I – Illness recently

O – Other flu-like symptoms

U – Unresponsive to medications

S – Skin abnormality

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND CHILDREN

Children may not display any of these symptoms and the younger they are, the less likely this may be.

Babies, for instance, may first be lethargic and not feeding. Headache especially is an uncommon symptom in young children.

If you are at all suspicious about your child's symptoms call Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for AMBULANCE.