



# What you need to know about MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. It is transmitted from person-to-person through saliva and spit. Babies, small children and young adults are most at risk.

**Early treatment  
saves lives.**



Immediately visit your nearest health facility if you or a loved one experiences the following symptoms:



World Health  
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## Symptoms

### In older children and adults

- sudden fever
- vomiting
- headache
- stiff neck or backache
- nausea
- sensitivity to light
- confusion
- red or purple rash



### In babies and small children

It can be difficult to notice the symptoms in babies and young children, and only few signs of illness may be present. Some of the symptoms you should be alert for are:

- high fever
- unusual crying
- refusing to eat or drink
- vomiting
- changes in sleeping patterns
- seizure
- purple rash

