

Fact sheet

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious infection when meningococcal germs (bacteria) enter the body from the nose or throat.

People with meningococcal disease get sick, very quickly. If you are worried that you or someone you care for may have meningococcal disease, go to your nearest hospital emergency department immediately.

Signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease can appear in any order and a rash may not always appear.

Adults and children	 Fever	 Headache	 Sleepiness or confusion
 Neck stiffness, joint pains	 Rash of red purple spots or bruises	 Dislike of or sensitive to bright lights	 Vomiting
Babies	 Fever or shivering	 Cranky, fussy, does not want to be held	 Difficult to wake up
 Pale and blotchy skin or cold hands and feet	 Rash of red purple spots or bruises	 High pitched moaning cry	 Will not eat or drink, or vomiting

To find out more visit:
www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/bacterial-infections/meningococcal-disease