

Meningitis symptoms

Common signs and symptoms of meningitis in babies and toddlers

Not all children will develop all the symptoms listed below. If your child develops some of these symptoms, especially a rash, get medical help urgently.



A rash that does not fade under pressure - or using the glass test, is a sign of meningococcal septicaemia. They are more difficult to see on darker skin, so look on paler areas of the skin and under the eyelids. The spots or rash may fade at first, so keep checking.

Remember, if you can't get in touch with your GP, or are still worried after you've spoken to them, take your child to the Accident and Emergency (A&E) department of your nearest hospital.



Weak, high pitched or continuous cry



Vomiting and refusing feeds



Cold hands and feet



Fever



Irritability, especially when picked up



Floppiness and listlessness, or stiffness with jerky movements



Shivering



Rapid or unusual patterns of breathing



Skin that is pale, blotchy or turning blue



Drowsiness, less responsive vacant or difficult to wake



A stiff neck



A bulging fontanelle (the soft spot on a baby's head)

NHS

acting fast saves lives!

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your health, your choices

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis

www.nhs.uk