

# Know the signs MENINGITIS

## What is meningitis?

Meningitis is a **serious infection that affects the protective layers around the brain and spinal cord**, known as the meninges. It can be caused by viruses, which are more common and usually less severe, or by bacteria, which are rarer but much more dangerous. Without quick treatment, **meningitis can become life-threatening** and may lead to sepsis, brain damage, or nerve damage. Early treatment is essential and can save lives.

**Early symptoms may resemble those of the flu or winter bugs.**

**Symptoms can appear in any order, and not every child will have all of them.**

 Fever

 Headache

 Vomiting

 Cold hands and feet

 Muscle pain

 Pale, blotchy or mottled skin

## Advanced symptoms of meningitis



 Stiff neck



 Extreme drowsiness, seizures



 Sensitivity to bright lights



 Difficulty walking



 Severe headache that doesn't improve



 Breathing difficulties