

Know the Early Symptoms

In the early stages, it can be very difficult to tell meningitis apart from less serious diseases and conditions.

The following symptoms can appear in any order and some may not appear at all.¹



Fever



Headache



Vomiting



Cold Hands & Feet



Muscle Pain

While the early symptoms are similar for all age groups, there are some additional symptoms to look out for in babies:²



Unusual Crying



Refusing Feeding



Drowsy, Floppy



Tense/bulging fontanelle (soft spot)

44% of parents in Ireland think a distinctive rash is the first symptom of meningitis, despite the fact it often appears after other symptoms, or not at all.³

The Rash Test

It is crucial not to wait for a rash to appear before seeking medical attention. To identify a meningitis rash, press a clear glass firmly against the skin. A fever combined with spots that do not fade under pressure is a medical emergency.¹

**For more information on meningitis,
please speak to your GP, nurse or pharmacist.**

1. Meningitis Research Foundation. Meningitis symptoms <http://www.meningitis.org/symptoms> Last accessed February 2018

2. Meningitis Research Foundation. Symptoms Checker for Babies <https://www.meningitis.org/meningitis/check-symptoms/babies> Last accessed February 2018

3. GSK, Tackle Meningitis Survey, April 2017