Meningococcal Disease (including Meningitis) is serious

Tell your doctor about any of the following signs and symptoms:

Your baby or child may:
- have a fever
- be crying or unsettled
- refuse drinks or feeds
- vomit
- be sleepy or floppy or harder to wake
- have a stiff neck
- dislike bright lights
- have a rash or spots

Adults may:
- have a fever and headache
- vomit
- be sleepy, confused, delirious or unconscious
- have a stiff neck
- dislike bright lights
- have joint pain and aching muscles
- have a rash or spots

The rash can occur anywhere on the body. Even one spot on a sick child or adult is important, so show it to your doctor.

Don’t wait – take action!
If you or someone in your household is sick with one or more of the symptoms from this chart:

- Ring a doctor or medical centre right away – whether it is day or night.
- Say what the symptoms are.
- Insist on immediate action – don’t be put off – a life may be at risk.
- If a person has been cleared by a doctor, they should still be watched.
- If they get worse go straight back to a doctor.
- Do not leave them alone.
- Early treatment of meningococcal disease with antibiotics can save lives.
- Even if your child has been immunised with the MeNZB vaccine, they can get meningococcal disease from other strains of the bacteria.

This resource is available from www.healthed.govt.nz or the Authorised Provider at your local DHB.