

# **CDC Vital Signs**

## **Think Sepsis. Time Matters.**

*This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Sepsis is a medical emergency. It's a complication caused by the body's overwhelming response to infection and can lead to organ failure and death.

Sepsis happens quickly. Symptoms can include shivering, fever, extreme pain, clammy skin, disorientation, shortness of breath, and high heart rate.

Sepsis occurs most often in people who have weakened immune systems or chronic medical conditions, and in those 65 or older or younger than one.

Health care providers:

- Prevent infections and ensure patients receive recommended vaccines.
- Educate patients and their families about the early signs of sepsis and managing chronic conditions.
- Think sepsis to identify patients early.
- Act fast by testing for infection and starting antibiotics.
- And reassess patient management and antibiotic therapy frequently.

To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/vitalsigns](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns).

*For the most accurate health information, visit [www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.*