



CALLING 9-1-1 FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

A medical emergency is an event that you reasonably believe threatens your or someone else in such a manner that immediate medical care is needed to prevent death or serious harm to health.

If you can answer “YES” to any of these questions, you should call 9-1-1.

- Is the condition life or limb threatening?
- Could the condition worsen quickly on the way to the hospital?
- If you move the victim, could it cause further injury?
- Does the person need immediate care that paramedics could provide?
- Would a delay in getting the person to hospital cause their health to deteriorate?

Medical emergencies include

- Severe difficulty breathing
- Chest pain
- A rapid heartbeat at rest especially if associated with shortness of breath or feeling faint
- You witness someone faint/pass out or find someone unresponsive
- Difficulty speaking, numbness, or weakness of any part of the body
- Sudden dizziness, weakness or mental changes (confusion, very odd behavior, difficulty walking)
- Sudden blindness or vision changes
- Heavy bleeding from a body cavity
- Bleeding from any wound that won't stop with direct pressure
- Broken bones (Obvious deformity, visible through an open wound, a broken leg)
- Drowning
- Choking
- Severe burns
- Allergic reaction, especially if there is any difficulty breathing
- Extremely hot or cold skin
- Suspected poisoning or drug overdose
- New severe headache
- Sudden intense pain
- Someone threatening to hurt or kill themselves or someone else



PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

If you're not sure, call 9-1-1 and the trained dispatcher will advise you. It is better to be safe and let the 9-1-1 dispatcher determine if you need emergent assistance. Always err on the side of caution. When in doubt, call.

When You Call 9-1-1...

- STAY on the phone until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.
- Answer all of the 9-1-1 dispatcher's questions.
- Follow any instructions provided by the dispatcher, including care for the patient or advice to make your location easier for responding paramedics to locate.
- If you or the person you are calling for has Advanced Directives or other legal documents regarding instructions for the care to be given, please have these available when help arrives.
- If you call 9-1-1 by mistake, do not hang up before the call is answered and you have spoken with a call-taker or emergency crews may be dispatched to investigate your situation.