



MAKE THE RIGHT CALL

How does your call measure on the urgency gauge?



Self-Care



Treatable at Home

- Twisted ankle
- Sunburn
- Minor abrasions
- Seasonal allergies



brunswickcountync.gov/ems



Call a Doctor



Schedule an Appointment

- Chronic symptoms
- Back pain
- Stomach aches
- High blood pressure
- Check-ups
- Fever
- Cough or cold
- Lingering pain
- Unexplained weight changes



Urgent Care



Average Urgent Care Wait Under 1 Hour

- Sprains or strains
- Skin infections
- Cough or cold
- Flu or fever
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Minor burns
- Possible broken bones
- Ear infections
- Sore throats or ear aches



Call 9-1-1



Average ER Wait Over 2 Hours

- Chest pain or pressure
- Severe blood loss
- Limb loss
- Head, neck, or back injury
- Difficulty breathing
- Convulsions or seizures
- Unconsciousness
- Poisoning
- Burns

This infographic is meant as a guide and for informational purposes only. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you are not sure if you need urgent or emergency care, go to the closest emergency room or call 9-1-1.

When you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, time is of the essence for Brunswick County's EMS team. That is why it is important to call only in emergencies and look for other options when a health issue does not require immediate attention.

Call 9-1-1 when an injury or illness could cost someone's life or ability to function without rapid emergency medical intervention. **If you are not sure if you need urgent or emergency care, go to the closest emergency room or call 9-1-1.**

See other side of this sheet...

Here are examples of some symptoms or injuries that require emergency medical attention:

- Chest pain or pressure
- Severe blood loss
- Limb loss
- Head, neck, or back injury
- Difficulty breathing
- Convulsions or seizures
- Unconsciousness
- Poisoning
- Burns

Brunswick County EMS works closely with the 9-1-1 call center, local hospitals, and other responders to ensure ambulances are available when these medical emergencies happen. But when ambulances are tied up with non-emergency calls, this becomes more challenging.

Here are options you can use for a non-emergency health issue:

- Contact your doctor for an appointment or go to an urgent care clinic
- Use alternate transportation to go to a hospital emergency room
- Self-care for minor, not urgent needs at home when possible

