



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

What is Hib?

Hib is a group of bacteria that live primarily in the nose and throat and can cause severe infection predominantly in infants and children under 5 years of age.

How is Hib spread?

Hib may be spread through the following ways:

- Coughing and/or sneezing
- Sharing things that are put in the mouth
- Direct contact with nose and throat secretions
- Occasionally the bacteria spread to the lungs and bloodstream

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms of Hib disease vary according to what part of the body is affected, but may include:

- Fever
- Confusion
- Stiff neck
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Joint pain
- Skin infection
- Bone pain

How is Hib diagnosed?

Hib is diagnosed by laboratory tests of blood or spinal fluid.

What is the treatment for Hib?

Haemophilus influenzae type b is treated with antibiotics. Most cases of Hib disease need to be hospitalized.

How can Hib be prevented?

Hib vaccine is required in the United States for all infants and children up to the age of five years.

Those exposed to Haemophilus influenzae type b are evaluated for immunization status and/or given antibiotic treatment.

For more information on Hib:

Ottawa County Health Department
www.miOttawa.org
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hib/default.htm>

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