

HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE B (HIB) DISEASE

Reportable to local or state health department

Consult the health department before posting/distributing Parent/Guardian fact sheet.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) can cause a number of serious illnesses, but it is not related to influenza or “stomach flu”. The number of infections in children has dropped due to use of the Hib vaccine.

CAUSE	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b bacteria.
SYMPTOMS	<p>Meningitis - unusual sleepiness, fever, stiff neck, vomiting, headache, irritability, lack of appetite.</p> <p>Cellulitis - a tender, rapid swelling of the skin, usually on the cheek or around the eye; may also have an ear infection on the same side; also a low-grade fever.</p> <p>Epiglottitis - fever, trouble swallowing, tiredness, difficult and rapid breathing (often confused with viral croup, which is a milder infection and lasts longer).</p> <p>Pneumonia - fever, cough, chest pains, difficulty breathing.</p> <p>Bacteremia - sudden onset of fever, chills, tiredness, irritability.</p> <p>Arthritis - swelling, redness, and loss of movement in the joints.</p>

Children age 2 and under are most likely to develop these infections, although those up to age 5 are still at some risk. Invasive disease most commonly occurs in children who are too young to have completed their vaccination series.

SPREAD	When a person with Hib disease coughs or sneezes tiny droplets with <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b bacteria into the air and another person breathes them in. A person can also get infected from touching these secretions and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose.
INCUBATION	Unknown; probably about 2 to 4 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms begin.
CONTAGIOUS PERIOD	Until 24 to 48 hours after effective treatment begins.
EXCLUSION	<u>Childcare</u> : Until the child has been treated and is well enough to participate in routine activities.
DIAGNOSIS	Recommend parents/guardians call their healthcare provider immediately if their child develops fever or any other symptoms. There are lab tests to detect <i>Haemophilus</i> .
TREATMENT	Hib disease can be treated with antibiotics. Immediate treatment is necessary to prevent lasting damage or death.

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PREVENTION/CONTROL

- All infants should receive Hib vaccine as part of their routine vaccination schedule. In Minnesota, all children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years who are in a licensed childcare setting are required to have Hib vaccine or they must have a legal exemption.
- Public health will make recommendations if exposed persons need to receive antibiotics and/or vaccine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kentucky Department for Public Health Frankfort, KY
Kentucky Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY
Lake Cumberland District Health Department Somerset KY
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/>
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www.lcdhd.org (606) 678-4761
Toll free: 1-800-311-3435 www.cdc.gov