



Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) bacteria can cause a number of serious illnesses. It is not related to influenza or “stomach flu”. Infection with Hib is extremely rare if your child has received the Hib vaccine.

If you think your child has Hib:

- Tell your childcare provider.
- Keep your child home from childcare until they have been treated and are healthy enough for routine activities.
- For more information, call HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Your child may have a fever with any of these conditions:

Meningitis – Your child may be tired, fussy and not want to eat. They may also have a stiff neck, vomiting, and headache.

Cellulitis – May have swollen skin, usually on the cheek or around the eye. Your child may also have an ear infection on the same side.

Epiglottitis – It may be hard for your child to swallow and to breathe. Your child may be tired.

If your child has been infected, it may take 2 to 4 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By sneezing or coughing.
- By touching hands, surfaces, or objects contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth.

Contagious period

Until 24 to 48 hours after effective treatment begins.

Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms of Hib. Your doctor may want to test for the bacteria and provide treatment.

Hib

- In some situations, treatment may be offered to individuals who were exposed. Contact your local public health department for current recommendations.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect anything contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth.
- In Minnesota, all children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years who are in a licensed childcare setting must have Hib vaccine or a legal exemption. Vaccination includes a series of 2 or 3 doses total with one at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months (depending on vaccination product) and then a booster at 12-15 months.

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