

Invasive Haemophilis Influenzae Type B (Hib)

The following information is provided by Public Health Services to assist you in managing patients with Hib and prophylaxis for contacts. If you have any questions please call Public Health Services.

Definition of Contacts for Hib

The following definitions apply to the prophylaxis guidelines listed below:

Household contact: an individual residing with the infected person or a non-resident who spent four or more hours with the index case for at least 5 of the 7 days preceding the day of diagnosis of the index case (not school contact). This includes people who share sleeping arrangements, such as military personnel in a barracks setting.

Childcare centre contact: a child who has attended a childcare centre where an infected individual has been identified.

Complete immunization: Immunization is complete when the individual has had at least 1 dose of conjugate vaccine at 15 months of age or older, 2 doses between 12 and 14 months, or a 2 or 3 dose primary series when younger than 12 months with a booster dose at 12 months of age or older.

Guidelines for Prophylaxis

The majority of secondary cases occur within 7 days of hospitalization of the index case.

Prophylaxis for Household Contacts

- Chemoprophylaxis is not recommended for occupants of households when all household contacts younger than 48 months of age have completed their Hib immunization.
- In households with at least 1 contact younger than 48 months of age who is unimmunized or incompletely immunized against Hib, rifampin prophylaxis is recommended for all household contacts irrespective of age.
- The exception to the above recommendation is that all members of households with a fully immunized but immunocompromised child, regardless of age, should receive rifampin because of concern that the immunization series may not have been effective.
- Although the risk of secondary disease is low in an infant who has completed the primary 2 or 3 dose series, all members of a household with a child younger than 12 months of age (i.e., who has not yet received the booster vaccine dose) should receive rifampin prophylaxis.

Dosage of rifampin is as follows:

- Rifampin should be given orally once a day for 4 days (in a dose of 20 mg/kg, maximum dose 600 mg/day)
- For adults each dose is 600 mg
- For infants younger than 1 month of age, give 10mg/kg
- Chemoprophylaxis is not recommended for pregnant women

Prophylaxis for Child Care Centre Contacts

When two or more cases of invasive disease have occurred within 60 days and unimmunized or incompletely immunized children attend the childcare facility, administration of rifampin to all attendees and staff is indicated.

Information about Rifampin

- Pregnant women should not take rifampin.
- Rifampin may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Possible side effects include:
 - Orange discoloration of secretions or urine
 - Potential staining of contact lenses
 - Vomiting
 - Influenza-like reaction
 - Hepatitis