

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)

What is Hib?

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is a bacterial infection that causes serious infections. Hib can infect the throat and then can spread to cause meningitis (an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), pneumonia or ear, skin, joint, or blood infections.

Who Can Get Hib?

Hib is carried in the nose and throat of children and adults who may be healthy or have mild symptoms. It is then spread to another person through contact with discharges or droplets from the nose or mouth through activities such as kissing, sharing food, utensils or glasses. Hib disease usually occurs most seriously in children 2 months to five years of age.

What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Excessive drowsiness
- Stiff neck or upper back

What is the Treatment?

Hib can be treated with antibiotics prescribed by your doctor. It is important to get treatment immediately.

How Can You Prevent Hib?

- Hib vaccine is recommended for all children starting at 2 months of age. Children need a total of 4 immunizations, given at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months. This vaccine is included in routine childhood immunization. Make sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date
- Practice good hygiene. Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing and don't share eating utensils
- In some cases, children and employees in childcare settings where a child has been diagnosed with Hib may also need an antibiotic. Check with your doctor or Public Health Services for advice