

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)



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Haemophilus Influenzae Type B

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is a type of bacteria that can cause many different kinds of infections. It can cause mild illness, like ear infections or bronchitis, or severe illness, like infections of the blood.



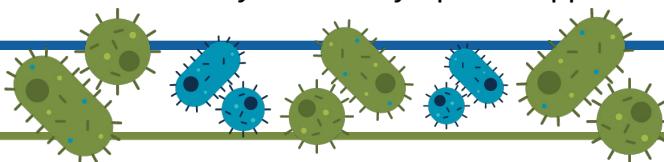
Hib infection can also cause:

- Pneumonia (a lung infection);
- Swelling in the throat, making it hard to breathe; or
- Infections of the blood, joints, bones, and covering of the heart.

Hib can cause serious illness and death in babies and children younger than 5 years old.

Spread

Hib bacteria live in a person's nose and throat and usually cause no harm. Hib spreads in the air through droplets caused by sneezing and coughing. A person can spread Hib even if they are not showing any signs or symptoms. It could take as little as a few days before symptoms appear.



Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms depend on the part of the body that is infected. For example, some symptoms of a blood infection include, fever, chills, tiredness.

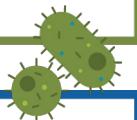


Prevention

Staying up-to-date with recommended vaccines and maintaining healthy habits, like washing hands often and not having close contact with people who are sick, help prevent disease caused by Hib.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends Hib vaccination for:

- All children younger than 5 years old.
- Unvaccinated older children and adults with certain medical conditions.
- People who receive a bone marrow transplant.



Treatment

People diagnosed with Hib can take medicine to treat the infection. Depending on how serious the infection is, a person may need care in a hospital.

Make sure your child is up-to-date on their Hib vaccines!



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