

FACT SHEET

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB) Disease

HIB is one of the most important causes of serious bacterial infection in young children. HIB may cause a variety of diseases such as meningitis (inflammation around the brain and spinal cord), bloodstream infections, pneumonia, and epiglottitis (inflammation of the upper airway).

Cause: *Haemophilus influenzae* Serotype b (Hib) bacteria.

Symptoms: Symptoms depend on the body site affected. Fever is present in all forms of HIB disease. Meningitis in addition causes stiff neck, headache, and vomiting. Pneumonia may cause a cough that produces mucus and rapid breathing. People with epiglottitis usually have noisy breathing and a very sore throat.

Spread: Direct contact with respiratory droplets from nasopharyngeal carrier or case patient. Individuals may carry HIB and potentially spread disease without becoming ill themselves.

Incubation: The period from exposure to onset of symptoms is unknown but probably less than a week.

Contagious

Period: Unknown, probably short, 2-4 days.

Precautions: Adults: good hand washing especially after coughing, sneezing, preparing foods or eating

Reportable: By the provider or lab to the local or state health department.

Diagnosis and

Treatment: Diagnosis may be made by isolation of organisms from blood or CSF. Intravenous antibiotics are used to treat serious infections. Rifampin (an oral antibiotic) is used to treat people who may carry the bacteria.

Prevention: Children less than five years of age should be vaccinated against HIB. The HIB vaccine is now a part of routine childhood immunizations. Rifampin should be given to all household members of a person with HIB disease. Rifampin may be considered for staff and children of a day care center when an attending child becomes infected with HIB.