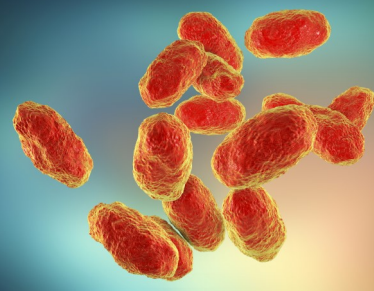


# Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)



**Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) is a bacteria that can cause many different types of infections. The infections can be mild, like an ear infection, or can be life threatening for children younger than 5 years old. Hib was once the most common cause of severe bacterial infection in children. Due to widespread use of the Hib vaccine, few cases are reported each year.**

## How is it spread?



- ▶ Hib bacteria often live in a person's nose and throat without causing any problems. In rare cases, the bacteria can spread to other parts of the body and cause illness.
- ▶ Hib bacteria spread through respiratory droplets. When people who are sick cough or sneeze, small respiratory droplets with the bacteria are released that can be breathed in by people around them.

## What are the signs and symptoms?



- ▶ Symptoms of Hib infection may include fever, tiredness, vomiting, and a stiff neck. Other symptoms depend on which part of the body is infected.
- ▶ Symptoms of **meningitis**, an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, include:
  - ▶ Fever
  - ▶ Stiff neck
  - ▶ Headache
  - ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Symptoms of **pneumonia**, a lung infection, include:
  - ▶ Fever and chills
  - ▶ Cough
  - ▶ Rapid breathing or difficulty breathing
  - ▶ Chest pain

## How is it diagnosed and treated?



- ▶ Hib is diagnosed through laboratory testing samples of blood, spinal fluid, or other bodily fluids.
- ▶ Hib disease can be treated with antibiotics.
- ▶ People with Hib disease may need care in a hospital depending on how serious the infection is.

## How can it be prevented?



- ▶ **The best way to prevent Hib disease is to get vaccinated.** The vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing Hib disease.
- ▶ Hib vaccination is recommended for all children under 5 years old. The vaccine series is given at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months and a booster dose is given at 12-15 months.
- ▶ If your child did not get the Hib vaccine as a baby, talk to a doctor.

