

Prevention and Control Measures Haemophilus Influenzae B

*****There is a vaccine that can prevent Hib disease, but not the other types of *H. influenzae*. Currently, chemoprophylaxis is not recommended for contacts of people with invasive disease caused by (nontype b) *H. influenzae* strains, because secondary diseases are rare*****

What is *H. Influenzae*?

- Pneumonia may cause a cough that produces mucus and rapid breathing.
- Invasive diseases such as bloodstream infection and meningitis typically present with fever, fatigue, and nausea.
- Pneumonia symptoms will likely include shortness of breath, chest pain, headache, stiff neck, and fever.
- Babies with meningitis may exhibit different symptoms, including irritability, vomiting, poor feeding, and abnormal reflexes.
- Despite its names, *H. influenzae* does not cause the flu (influenza).

How does *H. Influenzae* spread?

- People spread *H. influenzae* to others through respiratory droplets. People who are infected spread the bacteria by coughing or sneezing, which creates small respiratory droplets that contain the bacteria. Other people can get sick if they breathe in those droplets. People who are not sick but have bacteria in their noses and throats can still spread the bacteria. That is how *H. influenzae* spreads most of the time. The bacteria can also spread to people who have close or lengthy contact with a person with *H. influenzae* disease.

What are the symptoms?

- Pneumonia may cause a cough that produces mucus and rapid breathing.
- Invasive diseases such as bloodstream infection and meningitis typically present with fever, fatigue, and nausea.
- Meningitis symptoms will likely include headache, stiff neck, and fever.
- Babies with meningitis may exhibit different symptoms, including irritability, vomiting, poor feeding, and abnormal reflexes.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor
- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599
- Go to cdc.gov and type Haemophilus Influenzae in the SEARCH box.



Alabama Department of Public Health

Immunization Division, 201 Monroe St, Montgomery, AL 36104

1-800-469-4599 <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/measles.html> 03/09/26

Who is more likely to develop invasive *H. influenzae* disease?

- H. influenzae disease occurs mostly in children younger than 5 years old and adults 65 years or older.
- American Indian people, Alaska Native people, and people with certain medical conditions (including sickle cell disease, people without a functional spleen, HIV, or a weakened immune system) are also at increased risk of developing invasive disease.

Is there a vaccine against *H. influenzae*?

- There are 6 distinct types of H. influenzae (named a through f), as well as other H. influenzae that are classified as non-typeable. Vaccines can prevent H. influenzae type b (Hib) disease.
- However, the Hib vaccine does not prevent disease caused by the other types of H. influenzae. Hib vaccine is one of the recommended routine childhood vaccinations in the United States.

Prevention and Control Measures:

- Initiate control measures *within 3 days of initial case notification*
- Chemoprophylaxis does *not* eliminate the need for contact surveillance. Parents and childcare staff should be advised of the risk of secondary Hib disease despite chemoprophylaxis.
- Educate on transmission, signs/symptoms, and prevention (vaccinations) for Hib and nontype b strains
- Because H. influenzae non-type B is normally found in the nose and throat of healthy children and adults, there is usually no need to prevent the spread of H. influenzae non-type B. However, precautions should be taken when pink eye is present. These precautions include appropriate hand washing before and after touching the eyes, mouth and nose. It is also very important to carefully sanitize objects that are commonly touched by faces or hands, such as doorknobs, tables, telephones, toys and blankets.

** Note that the steps are not ordered by priority since several of these steps are conducted simultaneously*



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