

Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib)

Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) was the most common cause of bacterial meningitis among infants and young children until an effective vaccine became available in the late 1980's. The most common infections caused by Hib are meningitis, cellulitis, epiglottitis, pneumonia, and arthritis. These are invasive conditions. Other conditions caused by Hib are otitis media and sinusitis, non-invasive infections. Children ages 2 and under are most likely to develop these infections, although those up to age 5 are still at some risk.

CAUSE: *Haemophilus influenza* type b bacteria

TRANSMISSION: Through secretions and droplets from the nose and throat (i.e. coughing and sneezing). Healthy people, including adults, may carry these bacteria in their noses and throats.

INCUBATION: Unknown, probably about 2 to 4 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms develop.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: Until 24 to 48 hours after effective treatment begins.



EXCLUSION

Until the child has been treated and is well enough to participate in normal daily activities.



REPORTABLE

PROVIDER: This disease is reportable to the health department. In Hall, Hamilton, or Merrick County call (308) 385-5175. Outside counties call your local or state health department

SCHOOL/CHILD CARE FACILITY: Report all confirmed cases or suspected cases.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Inform your child care provider if your child has this illness.

Prevention & Control

1. Vaccines for Hib have been available since 1985. As of 1993, Nebraska State Law requires proof of age-appropriate vaccination.
2. Diagnosis and Treatment: Haemophilus disease is caused by bacteria and it can be treated with antibiotics. If left untreated, it can be fatal.

For more information, you or your physician may call the Central District Health Department at 385-5175, or call your local health department.