

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B

HIB

FACTSHEET

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What is Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB) Disease?

Haemophilus influenzae type B disease is a bacterial infection. Infections can be either mild or severe and can include meningitis (an inflammation of the coverings of the brain and spinal cord), bloodstream infection, pneumonia, arthritis, skin infections, and infections of other parts of the body.

Who gets Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease?

Haemophilus influenzae type B disease is most common in infants and young children, aged three months to three years.

What are the symptoms of Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease?

The symptoms of haemophilus influenzae type B disease are dependent on the illness that it is causing. Symptoms of infection may include fever, stiff neck, increased irritability, nausea, vomiting, tiredness or drowsiness, and cough.

How is Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease spread?

The bacteria that cause disease are spread through direct contact with the mucus from the nose or throat of persons who are infected.

How soon do symptoms appear?

The exact time it takes for symptoms to appear is unknown but, it is believed to be relatively short, from two to four days after exposure.

Is a person with Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease contagious?

Yes, a person with haemophilus influenzae type B disease is contagious until they have been on the appropriate antibiotic for at least 24 hours.

How is Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease treated?

The treatment for haemophilus influenzae type B disease is the administration of antibiotics. For serious illnesses hospitalization may be necessary. In cases of meningitis caused by this bacterium, people living in the same house or children attending the same child-care may also be treated with an oral antibiotic to prevent them from developing an infection.

Should a person with Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease be excluded from work or school?

Yes, a person with haemophilus influenzae type B disease should be excluded from work or school until they have been on appropriate antibiotics for at least 24 hours.

Is there a vaccine for Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease?

Yes, there is a vaccine available for haemophilus influenzae type B disease. The vaccine should be administered to all children at age two, four, and six months. It should be repeated when the child is between 12 and 15 months of age.

How can Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Disease be prevented?

The most important way to prevent haemophilus influenzae type B disease is through immunization.

Want more information?

Additional information about haemophilus influenzae type B disease and other related topics is available on the website www.cdc.gov. The DC Department of Health promotes the health and safety of the District residents. For additional information, please call 202-442-9371/9143.

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