

Hib is a serious disease...

Make sure your child is protected!

What is Hib?

Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b) is a serious disease caused by bacteria. Hib usually infects children younger than 5 years old.

How do you catch Hib?

Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child is up to date for all vaccines!

Hib is spread person-to-person through the air. Your child can get Hib disease from being around children or adults who have Hib bacteria in their nose or throat. These people may or may not appear sick.



Is Hib serious?

Yes. Hib can cause meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord). This can lead to permanent deafness and brain damage. Hib infection can also cause pneumonia, blood infections, and severe swelling in the throat that can block breathing and lead to death.

Is my child at risk?

Yes. Hib is common throughout the world. Each year, Hib sickens millions of children worldwide and kills more than 300,000. The number of children infected by Hib has decreased greatly in the U.S. because of vaccination, but an unvaccinated child can still get infected.

How can I protect my child from Hib?



You can protect your child from Hib with vaccination.

All children should get 3–4 doses of Hib vaccine (depending on brand), starting at 2 months of age.

If your child misses a dose or gets behind schedule, make sure they get the next dose as soon as possible.

▶ For more information, visit www.vaccineinformation.org

For other vaccine handouts in this series, visit www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries

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Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Saint Paul, Minnesota • www.immunize.org
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4308.pdf • Item #P4308 (6/13)