

O. HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE B (HIB) DISEASE

****Reportable to local or state health department****

Consult the health department before posting/distributing Parent/Guardian fact sheet.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is a bacterium which can cause a number of serious illnesses, but it is not related to the influenza virus or “stomach flu”. The number of infections in children has dropped due to use of the Hib vaccine.

CAUSE Haemophilus influenzae type b bacteria.

SYMPTOMS

- Meningitis - unusual sleepiness, fever, stiff neck, vomiting, headache, irritability, lack of appetite.
- Cellulitis - a tender, rapid swelling of the skin, usually on the cheek or around the eye; may also have an ear infection on the same side; also, a low-grade fever.
- Epiglottitis - fever, trouble swallowing, tiredness, difficult and rapid breathing (often confused with viral croup, which is a milder infection and lasts longer).
- Pneumonia - fever, cough, chest pains, difficulty breathing.
- Bacteremia - sudden onset of fever, chills, tiredness, irritability.
- Arthritis - swelling, redness, and loss of movement in the joints.

Children aged 2 and under are most likely to develop these infections, although those up to age 5 are still at some risk. Invasive disease most commonly occurs in children who are too young to have completed their vaccination series.

SPREAD When a person with Hib disease coughs or sneezes, tiny droplets with Haemophilus influenzae type b bacteria enter into the air and another person breathes them in. A person can also get infected from touching these secretions and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose.

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

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

EXCLUSION Childcare and School: Until the disease is no longer in communicable form and a medical professional has cleared the child for readmission.

Work with your local health authority.

Other children in the classroom or childcare facility must initiate antimicrobial prophylaxis as a condition of readmission, unless directed otherwise by a medical professional or the local health authority

See: [NAC 441A.550](#)

DIAGNOSIS Recommend parents/guardians call their healthcare provider immediately if their child develops fever or any other symptoms. There are lab tests to detect Haemophilus.

TREATMENT Hib disease can be treated with antibiotics. Immediate treatment is necessary to prevent lasting damage or death.

PREVENTION/CONTROL

- All infants should receive Hib vaccine as part of their routine vaccination schedule. In Nevada, all children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years who are in a licensed childcare setting are required to have Hib vaccine or they must have a legal exemption.
- Public health will make recommendations if exposed persons need to receive antibiotics and/or vaccine.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-434-1690 & 775-887-2190 (after hours)

[Central Nevada Health District](#) (Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, Pershing Counties) 775-866-7535

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

Email: dpbhepi@health.nv.gov