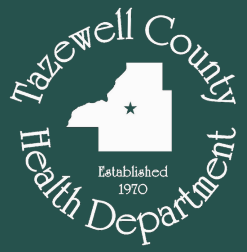




HIB fact sheet



Haemophilus influenza Type B

What is Hib?

Hib is a type of bacteria that causes infections. The infections can be prevented by the Hib vaccine, which is part of routine childhood vaccinations. The bacteria can infect ears, eyes, sinuses, epiglottis (flap over the windpipe), skin, lungs, blood, joints and coverings of the brain (meningitis). This is NOT “the flu”, which is a disease caused by influenza, a virus.

How is it spread?

Hib is spread by respiratory (droplet) route. When a child talks, coughs, or sneezes, large droplets form that can land on or be rubbed into the eyes, nose, or mouth.

How do you keep it from spreading?

Hib infection is a vaccine preventable disease. Children should receive vaccines according to the most recent vaccine recommendations. Preventive antibiotics may be considered on the advice of the health department in cases of Hib meningitis. This is not commonly needed now that Hib immunization is widespread.

Hib in schools:

Teachers/caregivers need to report the infection to the health department. If the health professional who makes the diagnosis does not inform the health department that the child who has the infection is a participant in a child care program or school, this could delay in controlling the spread. Any exposed children who develop a fever should be seen by a health professional as soon as possible.

Treatment

Household members and children who are under-immunized (have not finished the Hib series) Or unimmunized and attending a group care setting where 2 or more cases of Hib have been reported may need to take an antibiotic to prevent the spread of the disease. Unimmunized children should be offered the vaccine.

Exclusion

Children with a proven Hib infection should be excluded until they are cleared by a health professional. The child may be readmitted when they can participate and staff members can care for the child without compromising their ability to care for other children in the group. Do not exclude exposed children and staff members if there are no other reasons for exclusion.