



Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)

About Hib

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) disease is a bacterial illness that can cause many kinds of infections. Hib vaccine can prevent this disease.

Hib bacteria can cause mild illness, such as ear infections or bronchitis, or can cause severe illness, such as infections of the blood. Hib infection can also cause:

- pneumonia
- severe swelling in the throat, making it difficult to breathe
- infections of the joints, bones, and covering of the heart

Hib infections usually affect children younger than age 5 but can also affect adults who have certain medical conditions.

Hib is usually spread through coughing or sneezing. Not everyone who has the bacteria will get sick, but they can still spread the bacteria to others.

Severe Hib infection, also called invasive Hib disease, requires treatment in the hospital and can sometimes result in death.

Before Hib vaccine, Hib disease was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children younger than age 5 in the U.S. Meningitis is an infection of the brain and spinal cord and can lead to brain damage and deafness.

Important details

Hib vaccine is a 3- or 4-dose series, depending on the brand.

Infants will usually get their first dose of Hib vaccine at **2 months** of age and complete the series by **12-15 months** of age.

Children between **12 months** and **age 5** who have **not previously been vaccinated** against Hib may need 1 or more doses of Hib vaccine.

Children older than age 5 and **adults** usually do not receive the Hib vaccine, but it might be recommended for older children or adults in certain situations.

- Hib vaccine is recommended for people age 5 through age 18 living with HIV.
- Hib vaccine could be recommended for individuals with a damaged or removed spleen.

Hib vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.



What to expect after vaccination

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination—this is how you know the vaccine is working. Side effects are usually mild and resolve on their own within a few days. Some normal immune responses after the Hib vaccine include:

- pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site
- fever

Hib vaccine may be given as a standalone vaccine, or as part of a combination vaccine (a type of vaccine that combines more than one vaccine together into one shot). Ask your healthcare provider what other vaccines your child will receive at their well-child visit to be prepared.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy, have vision changes, or ringing in the ears. As with any medicine, there is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

Tell the vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of Hib vaccine
- has any severe, life-threatening allergies

Infants with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. Infants who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting Hib vaccine. In some cases, your child's healthcare provider may decide to postpone Hib vaccination until a future visit.

Hib vaccination statistics

60%

of invasive disease occurred in children younger than 12 months before Hib vaccine was available

99%

decrease in disease incidence since the pre-vaccine era. Continued vaccination is critical to resurgence.

12%

of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B cases died before vaccines were available.

For more vaccine information, go to immunize.utah.gov or scan the QR code!

