

For further information

- Contact your family doctor or public health nurse.
- Get a copy of *"My child's Immunisations - a guide for parents"*, which is available from your public health nurse.
- Visit www.immunisation.ie or www.hpsc.ie

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HIB Vaccine

Parent Information Leaflet



What is Hib (Haemophilus influenzae B)?

Haemophilus influenzae B (Hib) is a bacteria that can cause serious infection in humans particularly in children, but also in individuals with weakened immune system.

How is Hib spread?

It is a contagious bacteria that is spread by close contact with an infected person.

What illnesses does it cause?

Hib can cause serious disease including

- Meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain)
- Septicaemia (blood poisoning)
- Epiglottitis (swelling in the throat that causes choking)
- Osteomyelitis (infection of the bone)

How is Hib transmitted?

Hib lives in the nose and throats of humans. It is spread through the air by coughing, sneezing or even breathing.

Who is most at risk?

Hib disease is most common in children under 4 years of age, especially at risk are babies under one year of age.

Is there a vaccine against Hib?

Since 1992 Hib vaccine has been offered to all children as part of the routine immunisation programme. The 5 in 1 vaccine (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis/Polio/Hib) which contains Hib vaccine should be given to all babies at 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

Is a Hib booster necessary?

Following the introduction of the Hib vaccine the number of cases of Hib disease declined dramatically. However, in 2004 a small number of cases of Hib disease occurred in children who were fully vaccinated.

To give extra protection against Hib infection all children reaching 12 months of age should receive the Hib booster at the same time as MMR vaccine.

What to expect following vaccination?

After getting the vaccine, your child may be sore, swollen or red around the area where the injection was given. They may be irritable and have a fever.

If this happens you can give them paracetamol or ibuprofen. You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

Are there people who should not receive the Hib vaccine?

There are very few people who should not get the Hib vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they have had a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine or any part of a vaccine.

You should delay getting the vaccine if your child is ill with a fever higher than 38°C (100°F)