

# Invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae*?

Invasive *Haemophilis Influenza* is a disease caused by a bacteria. Infection with *Haemophilis Influenzae* can cause many different types of infection, some leading to death.

### What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae* can include:

- Bacteremia (infection of the blood)
- Meningitis
- Pneumonia
- Arthritis
- Epiglottitis (an infection and swelling of the throat)
- Cellulitis
- Bone infections

### Who is at risk of getting invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae*?

Invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae* can only be found in humans. Children who are under-immunized or not immunized and are under the age of five are at the greatest risk.

Additional risk factors for invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae* disease include persons who:

- Live in crowded settings
- Attend child care settings
- Live with school-aged children
- Have chronic diseases such as sickle cell anemia, and antibody deficiency syndromes

### How does it spread?

Invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae* is spread by respiratory droplets (spit) or mucus from the nose or throat of an infected person. Coughing or sneezing can spread it when bacteria become air born. The time from exposure to the germ development of the illness is not well known.

### How is invasive *Haemophilis Influenzae* diagnosed and treated?

Persons with *Haemophilis Influenzae* disease are diagnosed by a healthcare provider typically within a hospital. The disease can be treated with antibiotics.

### What should I do if I think I have it?

If you think you have *Haemophilis Influenzae*, you should contact your doctor immediately and discuss your symptoms.

### How is it prevented?

- A vaccine for *Haemophilis Influenzae* type B (Hib) is available and is recommended for all children.
- A Hib vaccine should be given to children at 2 months of age and then receive a booster shot dose at age 12-15 months.

For more information contact your doctor, refer to <http://www.phila.gov/Health/> or contact the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control at 215-685-6740.

