

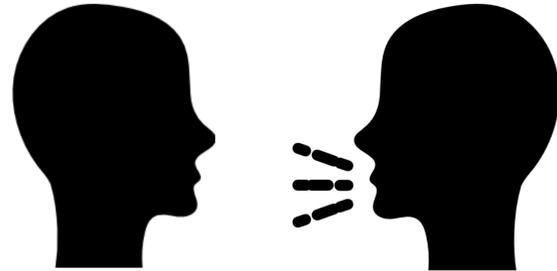


Haemophilus influenzae (H. Flu)

Fact Sheet



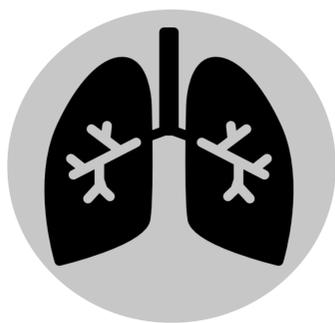
This disease, sometimes called H. flu, is caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* bacteria. This is not influenza (flu). One kind of H. flu, called type b (Hib), was once the most common cause of bacterial infection in children.



H. flu spreads to others when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Types of Illnesses

These bacteria cause many kinds of illnesses in children and adults such as ear infections. More severe invasive types include:



Pneumonia
(Infection of the lungs)



Meningitis (Swelling of the coverings of the spine and brain)



Joint Infections



Blood Infections

Signs and symptoms depend on the part of the body that is infected.

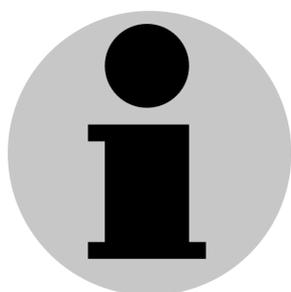
Prevention



Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent Hib disease. CDC recommends vaccination for all babies and a booster shot at 12 to 15 months. There are no vaccines for use against non-type b disease.

Infants who have not had all of their shots are at greatest risk. Hib is most common in children 6 to 18 months of age.

For More Information



Visit www.maine.gov/dhhs/hflu or www.cdc.gov/hi-disease.

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.