

# Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine

## Public Health – Fact Sheet

Immunization is one of the most important accomplishments in public health. Immunizations help in eliminating and controlling the spread of infections and diseases. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

### What is Hib disease?

There are many different types of *Haemophilus influenzae* bacteria. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) causes most of the severe infections in children. Hib disease can lead to infections of the lungs (pneumonia), joints (septic arthritis) and the covering of the brain (meningitis). It is most common in children under two years of age. It is spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or sharing food or drinks. Most people who carry the bacteria do not get sick, but they can still spread it to other people.

### What is the Hib vaccine?

The Hib vaccine protects against Hib disease and is provided free of charge by Manitoba Health as part of your child's routine immunizations. The Hib vaccine contains proteins (antigen) that stimulates the immune system to fight the Hib bacteria. The vaccine does not contain any live bacteria so it cannot cause Hib disease. If your child is later exposed to the actual Hib bacteria, the immune system can respond to prevent them from getting the disease.

### Who should get the Hib vaccine?

All infants and children between two months and 59 months of age should get the Hib vaccine. This vaccine can be given alone, but it is usually given as part of another vaccine called the 5-in-1 vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib). The schedule for your child depends on the age when they are first vaccinated. For more information, talk to your healthcare provider. If your child has already been sick with Hib disease before they were two years old, they are still at risk of infection and should get the Hib vaccine.

Individuals over 5 years of age with at least one of the following high-risk medical conditions are eligible to receive one dose regardless of previous Hib vaccine(s)

received and it has been at least one year after any previous dose:

- Cochlear implant recipients
- Asplenia or hyposplenism
- Congenital immune deficiencies (B cell deficiency, T cell mixed defects, phagocytic and neutrophil disorders, complement deficiency)
- Hemoglobinopathies
- HIV-infection
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients and solid organ transplant recipients ([as per CancerCare Manitoba Blood and Marrow Transplant \(BMT\) Immunization Schedule](#))
- Patients currently under the care of a haematologist or oncologist from CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB) who have the following conditions and have been provided a CCMB directed Immunization Schedule:
  - Malignant neoplasms (solid tissue and haematological) including leukemia and lymphoma, or clonal blood disorder, and who will receive or have completed immunosuppressive therapy including chemotherapy or radiation therapy, **or**
  - Hypo- or asplenic (Sickle Cell Disease, etc.)

### Who should NOT get the Hib vaccine?

Talk to your health care provider if you or your child(ren):

Have had a severe allergic reaction after receiving a previous dose of this vaccine or is/are allergic to any contents of the vaccine. Anyone with high fever should postpone immunization until recovered. The vaccine can still be given if the illness is mild, like a cold.

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## What are the possible side-effects of the Hib vaccine?

Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety. It is much safer for your child to get this vaccine than to get Hib disease. Common reactions to the vaccine include soreness, redness and swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children may have fever, drowsiness, fussiness, loss of appetite or an upset stomach. These are mild reactions and usually only last one to two days. Acetaminophen (ex. Tylenol®) can be given for fever or soreness.

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**ASA (Aspirin®) should NEVER be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.**

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A severe allergic reaction is a serious but rare side-effect of getting the vaccine. Symptoms could include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat and face. It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine so you can be monitored. If symptoms occur after leaving the clinic, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department for immediate attention.

**Report any serious or unexpected side-effects to a health care provider.**

## Your record of protection

All immunizations are recorded in a person's immunization record in Manitoba's Immunization Registry.

This registry enables:

- your health care provider to find out which immunizations you or your child(ren) have received,
- the production of immunization records or notification to you about overdue vaccines,
- Public health officials to monitor how well vaccines work in preventing disease.

You can get your immunization record by submitting a request online via [forms.gov.mb.ca/immunization-update-request](https://forms.gov.mb.ca/immunization-update-request). Your immunization record will be mailed to you. You may also be able to get a copy by:

- contacting your local public health office; or
- checking if your local medical clinic or physician's office can provide it to you; or
- asking at a local nursing station or health centre.

**For a listing of public health offices please visit:**  
[manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](https://manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html)

The Personal Health Information Act protects your information and/or that of your child(ren). You can have your personal health information and/or that of your child(ren) hidden from view from health care providers. For more information, please refer to [manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/phims.html](https://manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/phims.html) or contact your local public health office to speak with a public health nurse.

## For more information on Hib disease and vaccines:

- talk to your health care provider; or
- call Health Links–Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8200; toll free elsewhere in Manitoba 1-888-315-9257; or
- visit:

**Manitoba's Public Health website on Hib:**  
[manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/hib.html](https://manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/hib.html)

**Manitoba's Immunization Program website:**  
[gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html](https://gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html)

**Government of Canada website:**

- [healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/index-eng.php](https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/index-eng.php)
- [canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/vaccine-preventable-diseases/haemophilus-influenzae-disease.html](https://canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/vaccine-preventable-diseases/haemophilus-influenzae-disease.html)