

MENINGITIS, *Haemophilus influenzae b*
(Hib)
(Reportable Disease - Report to Local Health Agency)

- IMMUNIZATION:** Part of standard immunization schedule. Required for day care attendance. Not required for school attendance
- INCUBATION PERIOD:** Unknown but most likely short, 2-4 days.
- SYMPTOMS:** Fever, vomiting, headache, neck stiffness and severe weakness. Bulging fontanelle (temples) in infants.
- PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:**
As long as organisms are present in nasal pharynx (prolonged). Non-communicable within 24-48 hours after starting effective antibiotic therapy.
- MODE OF TRANSMISSION:**
Person-to-person by direct contact, or through inhalation of droplets of respiratory tract secretions.

Portal of entry is most commonly the nasopharynx.
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:**
Exclusion until 24-48 hours following start of effective antibiotic therapy.
- CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:**
(Per Local Health Agency) Observe contacts for signs of illness, especially fever. Preventive antibiotics are recommended for all household contacts in households where one or more infants (other than index case) are less than 12 months of age or have a child 1-3 years of age, inadequately immunized.

Preventive antibiotics may be advisable for staff and children in child care center classrooms when 1 case has occurred. Preventive antibiotics are recommended when 2 cases occur among children in same classroom and when exposed children are inadequately immunized.