

**HAEMOPHILUS  
INFLUENZAE type b (Hib)**Department of Health and Human Services  & ATSDR**Hib**

You may never have heard of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, or "Hib" disease. Hib is a bacterial disease. And even though "influenzae" is part of it's name, Hib is not related to influenza (flu). Hib is spread through the air by coughing, sneezing, or even breathing. It probably takes about 2 to 4 days from the time a child is exposed to Hib bacteria until symptoms appear. If the bacteria spread into the lungs or bloodstream, they can cause serious complications like meningitis. A shot to protect kids from getting Hib became available in 1985. Before that time, there were about 20,000 cases of Hib reported every year. Today, there are only a few hundred cases.

[www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip)