

What is *Haemophilus influenzae non-type B*?

Haemophilus influenzae (H. influenzae) non-type B is a bacterium that can cause pink eye, ear infection, sinus infection and pneumonia. In rare cases, it can cause meningitis (inflammation around the spinal cord and brain), bloodstream infections, infection of the amniotic membranes that surround a fetus, and bloodstream infections in newborns. *H. influenzae* non-type B is not the same as influenza or the flu.

Who is at risk for *H. influenzae non-type B*?

H. influenzae non-type B is found in the nose and throat of healthy children and adults. Most people do not get sick from carrying this bacterium in their bodies. Those who do get sick are primarily adults and the elderly who have an underlying medical condition.

What are the symptoms of *H. influenzae non-type B*?

Symptoms depend upon the part of the body affected. Pneumonia may cause a cough that produces mucus and rapid breathing. With pink eye, the eye will be pink or red, painful and itchy, and have more than a tiny amount of yellow or green discharge. Infected eyes may be crusted shut in the morning. An ear infection may cause pain in the ear, especially when swallowing or lying down. Sinus infections may cause a variety of symptoms including pain and pressure in the sinuses and cold symptoms.

How soon do symptoms appear?

The incubation period for *H. influenzae* non-type B disease is unknown.

How is *H. influenzae non-type B* spread?

H. influenzae non-type B infection may be transmitted through contact with secretions or droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person.

When and for how long is a person able to spread *H. influenzae non-type B*?

A person can spread *H. influenzae* non-type B as long as the bacterium is present. If treated with antibiotics, a person will be able to spread the bacteria for 24 to 48 hours after they begin taking the medicine.

How is a person diagnosed?

Consult a health-care professional for a positive diagnosis. A laboratory test may be needed.

What is the treatment?

Antibiotics are used to treat people with serious *H. influenzae* non-type B infections. No treatment is needed for carriers, or people who have *H. influenzae* non-type B in their bodies but who don't become sick.

Does past infection make a person immune?

No.

Should children or others be excluded from child care, school, work or other activities if they have *H. influenzae* non-type B?

A child does not need to be excluded unless the child is unable to participate and the staff believes they cannot care for the child without compromising the ability to care for other children.

What can be done to prevent the spread of *H. influenzae* non-type B?

Because *H. influenzae* non-type B is normally found in the nose and throat of healthy children and adults, there is usually no need to prevent the spread of *H. influenzae* non-type B. However, precautions should be taken when pink eye is present. These precautions include appropriate hand washing before and after touching the eyes, mouth and nose. It is also very important to carefully sanitize objects that are commonly touched by faces or hands, such as doorknobs, tables, telephones, toys and blankets.

There is no vaccine for *H. influenzae* non-type B.

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

This disease is a reportable condition. As mandated by North Dakota law, any incidence of this disease shall be reported to the North Dakota Department of Health.

Resource:

American Academy of Pediatrics. [*Haemophilus influenzae* Infections]. In: Kimberlin DW, Brady MT, Jackson MA, Long SS, eds. *Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 30th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2015: 368-376.