



Important Facts for Parents to Know about **The Hib Vaccine**

The Hib vaccine prevents infection caused by a bacterium called *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, which causes serious life-threatening diseases including meningitis, epiglottitis, and pneumonia.

- Meningitis is a serious infection of the brain, and spinal cord. About 5% of children (500 of every 10,000) who get meningitis will die, and about 20% of the survivors (2,000 out of 10,000) will be left blind, deaf, mentally retarded, or learning disabled.
- Epiglottitis is a serious infection of the epiglottis (a part of the throat that can interfere with breathing). With proper, timely treatment, children should not die from this disease, however, in some areas of the country, as many as 9–18% (900–1800 out of 10,000) do die.
- Pneumonia is a serious infection of the lungs. About 5% of children who get the disease (or 500 out of 10,000) will die.

The vaccine effectively protects at least 95% of children who receive the full series of shots.

Most children who receive the Hib vaccine (more than 70%) will have *no side effects* at all. Of those who have a side effect, they will have only a mild reaction.

- Mild side effects of the vaccine include soreness, swelling, or redness where the shot was given, and mild to moderate fever.
- Aspirin-free pain reliever can be used to reduce fever and soreness.

There are no known serious side effects from Hib vaccine.

Your child's chance of being harmed by Hib-related diseases is far greater than any chance of being harmed by the vaccine.

- Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious infectious diseases.

parents:

Please also read the Vaccine Information Statement on the Hib vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for other important information, including who should and who should not get the vaccine.