

# Childhood Vaccines

## Caregiver Information

At Eisner Health, your baby's health is our top priority.



### What is the **Hib** vaccine, and who needs it?

The Hib vaccine protects against Haemophilus influenzae type b disease.

- Hib disease can cause many kinds of serious infections, especially in infants and children under 5 years old.
- It can cause mild illness, like ear infections or bronchitis, but also severe illnesses, like blood infections, pneumonia, and severe swelling in the throat. Invasive Hib disease needs treatment in a hospital and can result in death.

**Children need three or four doses, depending on the brand of vaccine. They get the first dose at 2 months and usually complete the last dose at 12 to 15 months old.**

### How does Hib disease spread?

People infected with Hib disease spread it by coughing or sneezing. Other people can get sick if they breathe in the infected droplets released from the infected person. People who are not sick but have the bacteria in their noses and throats can still spread the bacteria. The bacteria can also spread to people who have close or lengthy contact with a person with Hib.



**I don't know anybody who has had Hib disease. Does my baby need this vaccine?**

**YES**

- Before the Hib vaccine was introduced, Hib disease was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis among children under 5 years old in the United States. Bacterial meningitis is a bacterial infection of the protective layer of the brain and spinal cord. It is potentially life-threatening.
- If Hib meningitis occurs, death occurs in one out of 20 children and permanent brain damage in up to 30 percent of the survivors.
- The most common types of diseases Hib can cause are meningitis, bacteremia, epiglottitis, pneumonia, arthritis, and cellulitis, all of which can be mild or severe.



**The reason you don't hear about Hib is because so many children are vaccinated against it. While many diseases have virtually disappeared in the United States because of vaccination, they are common in other parts of the world. If we stop vaccinating against these diseases, they can reemerge.**

**Receiving vaccines is an important part of a child's health.**

Vaccines give your child the antibodies they need to fight off serious diseases. As a parent or caregiver, we want you to feel confident about making the choice to protect your child.

**Please talk with your provider if you have any questions about vaccinations.**



**EISNER  
HEALTH**



[eisnerhealth.org](https://eisnerhealth.org)  
[@EisnerHealth](https://www.facebook.com/EisnerHealth)  
[@eisner\\_health](https://www.instagram.com/eisner_health)