

Hib vaccine

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

The Hib vaccine is part of Yukon's routine immunization schedule.

What is Hib?

Haemophilus influenzae type b, also called Hib, is a type of bacteria that can cause meningitis, which is an infection of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. It can also lead to bloodstream infections. These illnesses can lead to permanent disabilities, including hearing loss, developmental delays or death. Hib spreads through droplets when a person coughs or sneezes.

What is the Hib vaccine?

The Hib vaccine is a conjugate vaccine that protects against Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib). The vaccine works by stimulating the body's immune system to produce antibodies against this disease.

Why the vaccine is recommended

Before routine immunization, Hib was a leading cause of meningitis in young children in Canada.

The Hib vaccine helps protect against serious and life-threatening infections caused by Hib bacteria.

Routine immunization has greatly reduced Hib disease in Canada. Vaccination is the best way to protect people and help prevent the spread of Hib in the community.

Who should get the Hib vaccine?

The Hib vaccine is part of the routine immunization schedule for all infants and young children. This vaccine is typically received as part of a combined vaccine called Infanrix-Hexa.

It is also recommended for individuals at an increased risk of invasive Hib disease, including those with certain medical conditions such as:

- cochlear implants;
- a hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT);
- a solid organ transplant;
- asplenia, including sickle cell disease; and
- other conditions that weaken the immune system due to disease or treatment.

Talk to your health care provider or local health centre if you are not sure whether you or your child should get the vaccine.

Possible reactions to the vaccine

Common reactions following immunization are usually mild, last one to two days and may include:

- redness, tenderness or swelling at the injection site;
- a mild fever;
- a headache;
- fatigue; or
- digestive symptoms.

Side effects are generally easy to manage. You can apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site. If needed, a pain reliever such as acetaminophen may help. Speak with your healthcare provider if symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

After you get the vaccine

- Stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.
- Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Clinic staff are trained to treat them right away.
- If you have symptoms of a severe reaction after leaving the clinic, call 911 or your local emergency number right away.