

Check List: Managing Patients Suspected of Having Invasive Haemophilus Influenzae (H. Flu)

The purpose of this checklist is to provide clinicians step-by-step guidance for evaluating patients suspected to have invasive Haemophilus influenzae to reduce spread and facilitate Public Health investigations.

For questions, please call the Epidemiology Unit in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program (VPDCP)

Monday to Friday 8:30am–5:00pm: (213) 351-7800

After business hours/weekends: (213) 974-1234, option 8 for Administrative Officer on Duty (AOD)

Step 1. Identify Haemophilus influenzae (H.flu) from a sterile site

- Isolate organisms from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), blood, joint fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, subcutaneous tissue fluid, placenta, amniotic fluid, or other sterile sites.

Step 2. Isolate the patient under [droplet precautions](#)

Step 3. Begin appropriate antimicrobials with an effective, third-generation cephalosporin (cefotaxime or ceftriaxone) immediately

Step 4. Forward all sterile-site isolates to the Public Health Laboratory for serotyping

- Contact the Public Health Laboratory at (562) 658-1460 to schedule isolate pickup for serotyping.

Step 5. If [Hib or Hia](#) is probable or confirmed, identify and observe contacts at increased risk

- Identify whether the patient has been in recent contact with any of the following:
 - Infants < 4 years of age who are unimmunized or incompletely immunized
 - Immunocompromised persons
- Observe contacts, especially exposed children, for fever and other signs/symptoms.
- Rifampin chemoprophylaxis should be considered for high-risk contacts. Please see CDPH [Quicksheet](#) for more information.

Step 6. Assess the patient's immunization status

- [Vaccinate](#) children aged <24 months who develop invasive Hib disease with a second primary series 4 weeks after disease onset regardless of previous Hib vaccination.

Step 7. Report the patient suspected of having invasive H. flu to Public Health

- Inform the case-patient that Public Health may be in contact to provide H. flu-related assistance to them and their family/friends.
- Fax the following to Public Health at (213) 351-2782:
 - ✓ Patient demographics
 - ✓ All lab results assessing respiratory illness
 - ✓ Medical records
 - ✓ Immunization records
 - ✓ Travel history in the last 2 months
- Non-invasive H. flu cases do not require reporting.