



Sequatchie Valley Planning & Development Agency  
**Sequatchie Valley Head Start**

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

A child or staff member in our program has a serious infections illness caused by bacteria named Haemophilus influenza Type B. (A short way of writing the name is Hib.) Hib can spread between people who are in close physical contact and share breathing space. Hib is not at all related to the regular flu.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child has been in close contact (same classroom or shared activities) with this child or staff member.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child has not been in close contact with the ill person.

**Information about Hib:**

Hib can cause very serious illnesses such as meningitis (infection of the coverings of the brain), pneumonia, arthritis, epiglottitis (infection of the upper throat), blood infections and skin infections. All of these illnesses require hospital treatment and intravenous antibiotics. Because the bacteria can spread from child to child and because they can cause serious illness, we want to make you aware of the fact that your child may have been exposed.

**Please take these steps:**

1. Call your health care provider. Tell her or him that your child is in a program where another child has come down with an illness caused by Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib). Indicate whether or not your child has been in close contact with the ill person.
2. Watch your child for signs of illness or a fever. If your child becomes ill, take her or him to your health care provider. Watch your child especially carefully in the next week, and continue watching for a month.
3. Remember that our program will also be very watchful over the next month. We will notify you if another child comes down with this illness.