

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:

Clinical evidence¹ of invasive disease with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Isolation of *H. influenzae* (serotype b) (Hib) from a normally sterile site
OR
- Isolation of *H. influenzae* (serotype b) from the epiglottis in a person with epiglottitis

Probable Case:

Clinical evidence¹ of invasive disease with laboratory evidence of infection:

- Demonstration of *H. influenzae* type b antigen in cerebrospinal fluid
OR
- Demonstration of *H. influenzae* DNA in a normally sterile site
OR
- Buccal cellulitis or epiglottitis in a child < 5 years of age with no other causative organisms isolated

Clinical Evidence

Clinical illness associated with invasive disease due to *H. influenzae* includes meningitis, bacteraemia, epiglottitis, pneumonia, pericarditis, septic arthritis and empyema.

Laboratory Comments

Detection of *H. influenzae* DNA is considered probable, not confirmed, because Hib may be present in a non-pathogenic role and thus, depending on the site, may NOT reflect the actual pathogen. Additionally, detection of *H. influenzae* DNA in a sterile site does NOT indicate that it is type b, since this test does not differentiate between serotypes.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed and probable cases to DHW Surveillance via Panorama.

Additional Forms

None.

Additional Comments

None.

¹ See Clinical Evidence section.