



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service  
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**Date:** November 28, 2022

**Administrative Circular:** 2022:49

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products**

## **Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control**

### **Haemophilus influenzae type b**

The following are the key revisions and updates:

- 3.0 Epidemiology has been updated to include hyperlinks to the BCCDC Reportable Diseases Data Dashboard and the Annual Summaries of Reportable Diseases for the most up-to-date statistics.
- 4.0 Case Definition has been updated to remove “serotype b” from the confirmed case definition, as all confirmed cases of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* disease are reportable, including all non-b serotypes, per the [List of Reportable Communicable Diseases in BC, January 2018](#).
- 5.0 Reporting has been updated per the current reporting process.
- 6.1.1 ‘Immunoprophylaxis During an Outbreak among Adults’ has been added.
- 6.2 Chemoprophylaxis of Contacts has been updated as follows:
  - A hyperlink has been added to the new subsection 6.3 Chemoprophylactic Agents for Close Contacts of Hib Infection.
  - Ceftriaxone has been added as an alternative prophylactic agent that may be used as an alternative to rifampin for pregnant women, individuals for whom rifampin is contraindicated or who cannot tolerate oral medication.
  - Content related to the requirement for a prescription from Medical Health Officer and/or attending physician for the dispensing of rifampin has been removed, and replaced with the *Provision of chemoprophylaxis / immunoprophylaxis of contacts of Haemophilus influenzae type b infection* form to communicate with MHO and/or Pharmacist regarding dispensing of chemoprophylactic agents.

Page 1 of 3

- The following situation has been added for which chemoprophylaxis may be considered at the discretion of the MHO: “A small well-defined population deemed at high risk of severe disease following the occurrence of one or more cases in the context of likely clonal transmission.”
- 6.3 Chemoprophylactic Agents for Close Contacts of Hib Infection has been added.
- 7.0 Storage and Distribution of Rifampin section has been updated per the current process.
- 8.0 Rifampin Side Effects and Contraindications has been removed as this information is now included in 6.3 Chemoprophylactic Agent for Close Contacts of Hib Infection.
- 8.0 Authority section has been updated to the Public Health Act (SBC 2008) and Communicable Disease Regulation.
- 9.0 References section has been updated.
- 10.0 ‘Provision of chemoprophylaxis of contacts of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b infection’ has been added.
- 11.0 ‘Worksheet: Chemoprophylaxis/immunoprophylaxis of contacts of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b’ has been added.

**Please remove entire section:** dated September 2005  
**Please add new section:** dated November 2022

## Chapter 2: Immunization

### Part 4 – Biological Products

#### Hib Vaccines

##### Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine, Act-HIB® and Hiberix®

The following indication has been added: “Individuals who are at high risk during a cluster/outbreak per [Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: \*Haemophilus influenzae\* type b](#) (refer to 6.1.1 Immunoprophylaxis During an Outbreak among Adults), as determined by the regional MHO in consultation with the Provincial Health Officer and BCCDC.”

**Please remove page numbers:** 1 & 2 dated August 2020  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1 & 2 dated November 2022

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: [stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca](mailto:stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca)).

Sincerely,



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Communicable Diseases & Immunization Service  
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pc:

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