

Note: Sample letter to be adapted on local or state health department letterhead and to be used when case is reported within 14 days after case's last day in a child care.

PARENT AND EMPLOYEE ADVISORY LETTER
***Haemophilus influenzae* invasive disease in a Child care Center**

Dear Parents of (name of child):

Your child has been in contact with a child who has had disease caused by a bacteria called *Haemophilus influenzae* (commonly called "*H. flu*" or Hib). Despite its name, the bacteria has nothing to do with flu virus and does not cause "the flu". Hib can cause pneumonia, joint, blood, and skin infections, and meningitis in children under four years old.

Because your child was in contact with the child with *H. flu* disease for more than four hours in the week before the child's illness, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the _____ Health Department recommend that your child take an antibiotic called rifampin to reduce his/her risk of developing a serious *H. flu* infection. Your child may need rifampin whether or not his/her vaccination is complete. Please contact your child's pediatrician or family doctor to obtain this medication as soon as possible. Persons who are known to be allergic to rifampin, and women who are pregnant or who might be pregnant shouldn't take rifampin. Persons wearing soft contact lenses should remove the lenses for the four-day treatment period as rifampin may discolor them. Rifampin will turn the urine a reddish-orange color and may decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills.

Watch for the following signs of infection in your child: high fever, irritability, breathing difficulty, or other unusual behavior accompanied by fever. If your child develops any of these symptoms in the next few weeks, you should contact his/her doctor, explain the symptoms and tell the doctor that your child was in contact with a child who had a serious *H. flu* infection.

Please feel free to contact the _____ Health Department at (telephone number) or the Iowa Department of Public Health, Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology, (800) 362-2736, if you have questions regarding this subject.

There is now a vaccine to prevent *H. flu* disease, including meningitis. It is recommended that all children receive a series of a Hib conjugate vaccine beginning at two months of age. If your child is two months of age or older, and has not received this vaccine consult your physician or your local health department to obtain this vaccine, commonly referred to as Hib vaccine.

For child care employee exposure, rifampin is recommended to eliminate the *H. flu* organism from the employee's nose and throat to prevent children under four years in the center from having further exposure to *H. flu*.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Local Health Department)

Note for your doctor: The recommended dose of rifampin for *H. flu* prophylaxis is 20 mg/kg once daily for four days (maximum dose 600 mg/day); for infants less than 1 month old, 10 mg/kg once daily for 4 days.