

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

PARENT INFORMATION 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 a serious disease caused by a bacteria called *Haemophilus influenzae* (commonly called "*H. flu*" or Hib). If your child is at least 15 months old and up to date on his or her immunizations, they are probably fully protected against *H. flu* infection. The bacteria has nothing to do with flu virus and does not cause "the flu", despite its name. *H. flu* can cause pneumonia, blood, joint and skin infections, and meningitis in children less than four years of age. There is a small risk that children spending several hours with the child with *H. flu* disease in the days prior to illness might develop a serious *H. flu* infection. An antibiotic called rifampin can reduce this risk if given soon after exposure. Since your child's exposure occurred more than 14 days ago, we are not currently recommending rifampin. Please contact your child's doctor to discuss this exposure.

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 or her doctor immediately 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.

A vaccine is available for children two months of age and older to prevent *H. flu* disease, including meningitis. It is recommended for all children to receive a series of an approved Hib conjugate vaccine beginning at two months of age. If your child is two months of age or older, consult your physician, or your Local health department to obtain Hib vaccine.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Local Health Department)