Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) are serious diseases caused by bacteria.

**TRANSMISSION:**

Diphtheria and pertussis spread from person to person.\(^ {11,12}\) Tetanus does not spread from person to person but the bacteria are usually found in soil, dust, and manure and enter the body through breaks in the skin – usually cuts or puncture wounds caused by contaminated objects.\(^ {13}\)

**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:**\(^ {10}\)

- Diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat.
- Tetanus (lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body.
- Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection. Coughs may eventually turn more serious, particularly in infants.

**POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:**

- Diphtheria can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and even death.\(^ {10}\)
- Tetanus can lead to “locking” of the jaw so that the victim cannot open their mouth or swallow.\(^ {10}\)
- Pertussis can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and death.\(^ {14}\)
**Haemophilus influenzae type b**

**DISEASE:**

*Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)* is a bacterium that can cause a severe infection, occurring mostly in infants and children younger than five years of age.

**TRANSMISSION:**

The germs spread from person to person by direct contact or through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing.

**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:**

Symptoms will depend on the type of illness and may include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck
- Vomiting
- Coughing
- Breathing difficulties
- Tender skin
- Swelling
- Redness in a joint
- Ear pain

**POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:**

- Pneumonia (lung infection)
- Bacteraemia (bloodstream infection)
- Meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord)
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**Transmission:**

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- Pertussis can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death.

**Signs & Symptoms:**

Most people who get infected with poliovirus will not have any visible symptoms. About 1 out of 4 people with poliovirus infection will have flu-like symptoms that may include:

- Sore throat
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Stomach pain

A smaller proportion of people with poliovirus infection will develop other more serious symptoms that affect the brain and spinal cord.

**Possible Complications:**

- Life-long paralysis

Even children who seem to fully recover can develop these complications as adults, 15 – 40 years later:

- New muscle pain
- Weakness
- Paralysis

**Poliomyelitis (polio)** is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that invades the nervous system.
Childhood Vaccinations

Find out more about VACCINATION
Scan QR Code to visit
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