

Diphtheria

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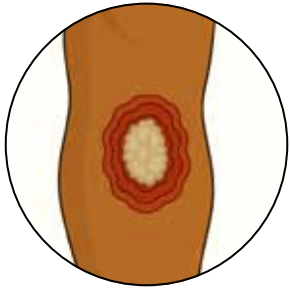
Diphtheria is contagious infection caused by bacteria (germs) that produce a toxin (poison) that can make you very sick.

There are two types of infections:



Throat (respiratory) diphtheria – a toxin infection in the throat and is very serious.

- Hard to swallow and breathe
- Sore throat, fever and chills
- Grey - white coating on throat and tonsils
- Tiredness, not feeling hungry



Skin (cutaneous) diphtheria – causes skin infections.

- Sores and ulcers that take a long time to heal.

If you have a bad sore throat or skin sore that is not healing, go straight to the Clinic or Hospital.

If not treated quickly, respiratory diphtheria can lead to:

- Long stays in hospital with breathing trouble
- Damage to the heart
- Damage to nerves causing weakness, choking and trouble breathing
- Death (severe cases)

STOP the spread:



Get a Diphtheria vaccine booster if needed.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow



Keep sores clean and covered



Clean household items and surfaces

If you have symptoms or want to check whether your diphtheria vaccinations are up to date, visit your local Clinic or Hospital for advice and care.

For more information, please contact AHCSA or learn more via SA Health: <https://bit.ly/4eEn9oT>