

Vaccination is your **best protection.**

Skin sores or sore throat?

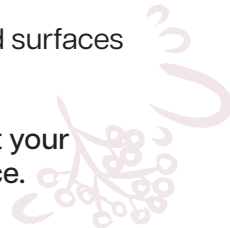
Visit your local health service.

Diphtheria can make you very sick and can even put you in the hospital. It can spread easily between people if it's not treated.

It is important children have all their vaccines as soon as they're due. Adults need a booster every five to ten years.

- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Keep wounds clean and covered
- Clean household items and surfaces

For more information contact your local Aboriginal Health Service.



### Contact Information

For more information please contact your local Aboriginal Health Service.

These resources have been adapted from the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council.  
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# GET DIPHTHERIA OUTTA HERE

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Diphtheria (*diff-theer-e-uh*) is a contagious skin and/or throat infection which can make you very sick.

## SYMPTOMS

### **Skin (cutaneous) diphtheria**

The most common diphtheria causes skin infections.

- Skin sores and ulcers that don't heal, mainly on the legs.

### **Throat (respiratory) diphtheria**

The most severe type of diphtheria is a toxin infection in the throat.

- Sore throat, fever and chills
- Hard to swallow and breathe
- Grey-white coating on the throat and tonsils
- Swollen, painful glands in neck
- Tiredness, not feeling hungry.

## COMPLICATIONS

If not treated quickly, toxin-producing diphtheria can enter the bloodstream and damage other parts of the body.

This can lead to:

- damage to the heart
- damage to the nerves causing weakness, choking and difficulty breathing
- long stays in hospital
- death (in severe cases).

## TREATMENT

Your doctor or nurse will diagnose diphtheria by testing a swab taken from the infected throat or sore.

- Diphtheria is treated with antibiotics.
- If you have a throat infection you might need special medicine.
- People with severe throat infections may need treatment in hospital.
- People recovering from diphtheria may need a booster jab.
- Mob staying in your house might also need to take antibiotics to stop them from getting sick too.

## KEEP MOB SAFE

You can help stop the spread of diphtheria in community.

- Come see the doctor if you have a skin sore or sore throat.
- Keep your sores covered and take all of your antibiotics every day until they are finished.
- If you have a sore throat avoid contact with others. No kissing until you're better!
- Keep an eye on your mob at home. Check their skin for sores and get them to come see the doctor.
- Vaccination is the best way to keep mob safe and can stop diphtheria from making someone very sick.

