

## Vaccination is the best protection

### The diphtheria vaccine is safe and free for:

- People under the age of 20 years.
- Pregnant women from 20 weeks.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have not had a diphtheria vaccine in the last 5 years.
- Adults who have not had a diphtheria vaccine in the last 10 years.
- Refugee and humanitarian entrants.
- Frontline workers.

Children are routinely vaccinated against diphtheria as part of the NT immunisation schedule.

# Protect yourself against **DIPHTHERIA**



Check with your  
health care provider  
to get your vaccine  
or find out if you are  
due for a booster.

Not sure of your vaccination status?  
Check with your health care provider!



If you need an  
interpreter we can  
book one for you.

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# DIPHTHERIA

Diphtheria is a skin or throat infection, caused by a nasty bacteria that can make you very sick and can spread to others.

There are two types of diphtheria:

## Skin (cutaneous) diphtheria

This is the most common type and affects the skin.

### Symptoms:

- Non-healing skin sores and ulcers, mainly on the legs.



## Throat (respiratory) diphtheria

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

### Symptoms:

- 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.



**Go to your doctor if you have symptoms**

## How is diphtheria spread?

Without treatment, infected people can spread diphtheria to others.

Diphtheria is spread by infected droplets from coughs or sneezes.



**COUGH AND SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW**



Diphtheria can be spread skin to skin, from contact with an infected ulcer or sore.



**KEEP WOUNDS CLEAN AND COVERED**



You can get sick by touching dirty sheets, towels, clothes, or household items.



**CLEAN HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND SURFACES**



## Treatment

- Diphtheria is treated with antibiotics.
- People with severe throat infections may need treatment in hospital.

## VACCINATION IS THE BEST PROTECTION