

# THINK DIPHTHERIA

Did you know diphtheria can be prevented by getting vaccinated?  
Talk to your doctor or nurse about the vaccine and if it is recommended for you and your family.

Diphtheria can affect your throat, nose or skin.

Symptoms depend on what part of the body is affected and whether a person is vaccinated.

## MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS ARE:

- Throat: sore throat, loss of appetite, and slight fever, swelling of neck, difficulty breathing
- Nose: nasal discharge and superficial ulceration or sores
- Skin: sores and shallow ulcers



Remember, if it could be diphtheria you need to seek medical attention for assessment and treatment.

Assessment for suspect diphtheria includes obtaining a swab to test for the bacteria and treatment includes antibiotics and if diphtheria is confirmed anti-toxin may be required.

The healthcare professional will:

- Get samples to diagnose
- Notify cases to Public Health



For more information go to: <http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Diphtheria/>

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