



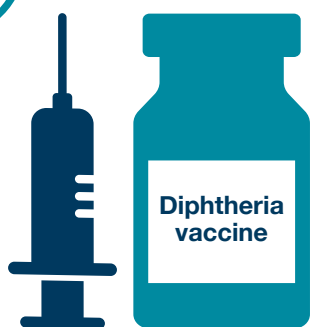
UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS



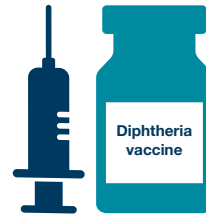
A guide to

Diphtheria treatment and vaccination



Who is being offered this extra protection?

Everyone arriving to claim asylum in the UK is currently being offered a dose of a diphtheria containing vaccine to reduce the risk of diphtheria and some other infections. This is after a number of cases have been detected in centres for asylum seekers.



Diphtheria

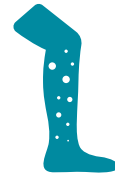
Diphtheria is a serious disease.



It usually begins with a sore throat.



The same bacteria can also cause nasty ulcers on the skin, particularly the legs.



It can quickly cause breathing problems.



It can damage the heart and nervous system.



In severe cases, it can kill.



How it is spread



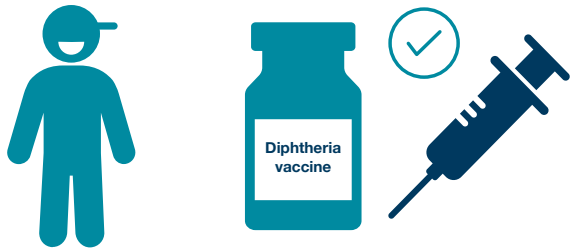
Diphtheria bacteria can live in the mouth, nose, throat or skin of people with the infection.



It can spread when people are close together and they have not been vaccinated.

How it is prevented

Diphtheria vaccination is given as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme worldwide.

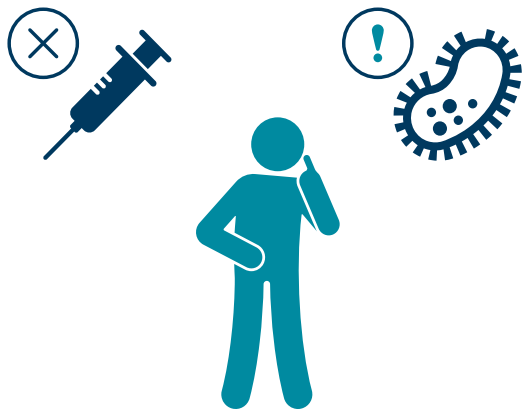


The vaccine is very safe and effective and so the disease is now rare in the UK. In countries where immunisation services have been disrupted, however, the infection is more common.



Why this is being offered

If you have not been vaccinated against Diphtheria, you are at risk of getting the infection.



When you are travelling to claim asylum and living in crowded places, it can be hard to get medical treatment like your vaccines.

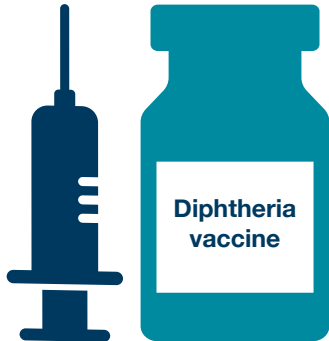


An increase in diphtheria cases has been detected across Europe, mainly in those who have travelled to claim asylum. It seems likely that most infections were acquired in the country of origin, or during travel to the UK, often in crowded and difficult circumstances.

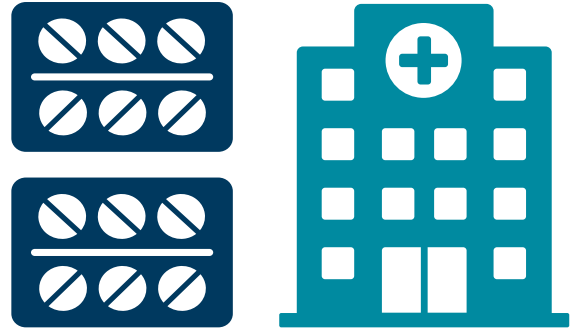


Treatment being offered

To stop the infection spreading further we are offering a dose of vaccine.



If you do develop symptoms of diphtheria, you may need a course of antibiotics and need to go to hospital.



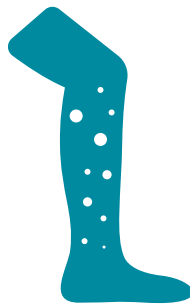
So, if you experience ...



A fever



Sore throat



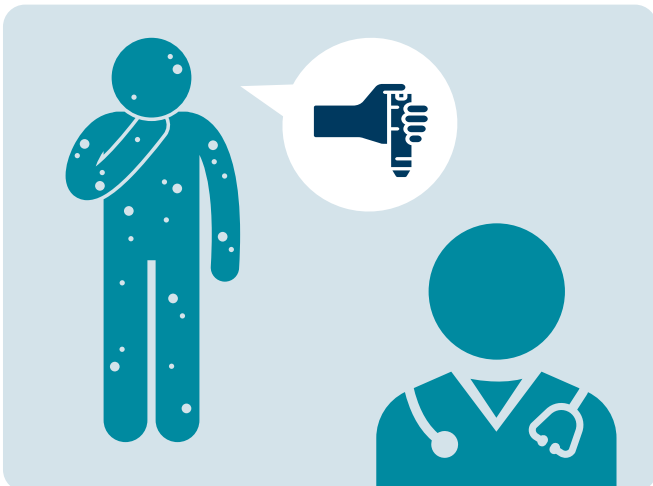
Infected skin lesions or ulcers

Please ask to see a doctor or call NHS 111 line.



Those who cannot have the vaccine

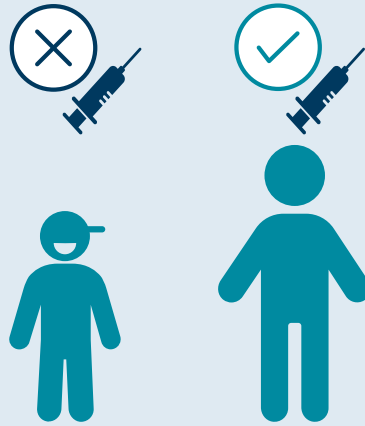
There are very few reasons why you cannot receive the vaccine.



If you have any serious allergies or a serious allergic reaction to a previous vaccination please tell a health care professional.

Will this stop you developing diphtheria?

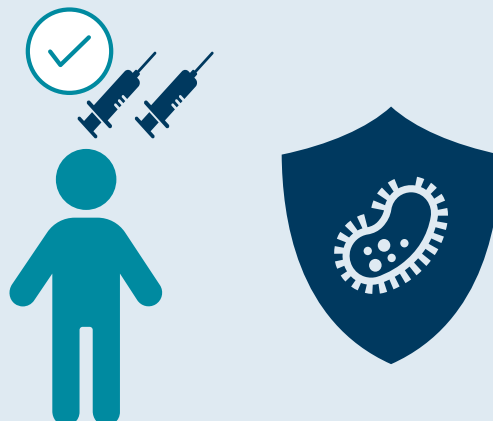
For some people this vaccine may make up for missing a dose earlier in life. This dose will help to kick start your protection, but you will still need to complete the course once you are settled.



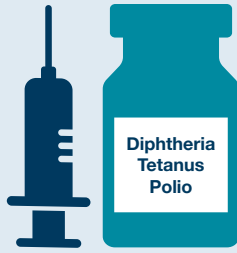
Further information is available in various languages.



For other people this vaccine may be an extra dose. This extra dose should help to boost your protection and is very safe.



Will this stop you developing any other illnesses?



The vaccine you are being given also provides important protection against polio and tetanus.



Tetanus is also called 'Lockjaw'.



Polio can also cause paralysis when you cannot move your body.

Find out more

Scan this code to find out more about diphtheria



Scan the code below to find out more about tetanus.



Scan the code below to find out more about polio.



Side effects from the vaccine

You may have some redness, swelling or tenderness in the arm where you have the injection.



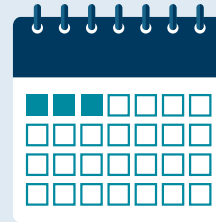
You may have a temperature.



You may have a headache.



These symptoms will usually disappear in a few days.



Reporting side effects

Please report any suspected side effects:



Online at **Yellow Card Scheme**.
Visit yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk



By downloading and using the Yellow Card app:

Apple
Android



By calling the Yellow Card scheme on 0800 731 6789 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

Find out more

Online sources of information that you may find helpful:



NHS website: Diphtheria:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/diphtheria

NHS website: Polio:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/polio/

NHS website: Tetanus:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/tetanus/



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