**Diphtheria**

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection usually affecting the mucous membranes of the nose and throat.

**Causative microorganism**: Diphtheria is caused by the c*orynebacterium diphtheriae* bacterium

**Incubation period:** 2-5 days (range, 1-10 days).

**Mode of transmission:**

It’s most commonly spread through person-to-person contact or contact with items that have the bacteria on them*.* Coming into contact with items such as an infected person’s cup or used tissue can transfer the bacteria. The mist exhaled by an infected person’s sneeze or cough can also contain the bacteria.

**People at risk:**

Unvaccinated children now, people with a weakened immune system—such as those with AIDS—are included in the at-risk group. Unclean living conditions have also been linked to an increased risk of infection

**Signs and symptoms:**

Diphtheria typically causes a sore throat, fever, swollen glands and weakness. But the hallmark sign is a sheet of thick, gray material covering the back of the throat, which can block your airway, causing to struggle for breath.

**Infectivity period:** Six weeks

Complications:If left untreated, diphtheria can cause severe damage to kidneys, nervous system, and heart

**Treatment:**

With the use of antibiotics and vaccines, diphtheria is not only treatable, but preventable as well by DPT vaccine.

**Diagnosing Diphtheria**

The doctor may believe that you or the child has diphtheria after observing a gray coating in the throat. A throat culture may be taken to provide a definitive diagnosis.

**Treatment for Diphtheria**

Because diphtheria is a serious illness, the doctor will likely want to treat quickly and aggressively.

1-The first step is an antitoxin injection.

2-prescribe antibiotics like erythromycin and penicillin. Antibiotics help clear up the infection