



DIPHTHERIA

A SERIOUS SICKNESS



Diphtheria has come back in northern Australia, and there are cases in the **KIMBERLEY**.

Diphtheria is a serious sickness caused by germs.



It can make people very sick and can cause death.



THERE ARE TWO MAIN TYPES:

1. THROAT DIPHTHERIA



- Starts like a cold
- Sore throat and fever
- Grey coating in the throat or nose
- Can make it hard to breathe or swallow

2. SKIN DIPHTHERIA



- Gets into cuts, sores, or wounds
- Makes deep sores that do not heal
- Often on the legs

HOW DOES DIPHTHERIA SPREAD?



- From coughing or sneezing



- From touching infected sores



- From dirty bandages or other dirty things touching sores.

GO STRAIGHT AWAY IF YOU HAVE:



- Bad sore throat + fever



- Trouble breathing or swallowing



- Skin sores that are not healing



- Doctors need to take a swab to check for diphtheria.

HOW TO FIX DIPHTHERIA



- Special medicine to stop the poison



- Some people need to stay in hospital



- Clean skin sores every day and cover them with a clean bandage.

IF YOU HAVE DIPHTHERIA:

Stay away from others until you are better.



HOW CAN WE STOP DIPHTHERIA?

1. GET VACCINATED



- Ask your clinic if your DTP or dTpa needle is up to date.

2. KEEP CLEAN



- Cover coughs and sneezes, bin tissues, and wash hands with soap and water.

3. LOOK AFTER SKIN



- Keep cuts and sores clean and cover them with clean bandages.

4. IF YOU FEEL SICK – SEE THE DR OR CLINIC.



GET CHECKED. GET TREATED. STAY SAFE.