

### Key questions to consider when assessing suspected respiratory diphtheria cases

Symptoms of respiratory diphtheria?	Difficulty swallowing? Sore throat? Changes in voice? Fatigue? Severity of illness – outpatient vs inpatient?
On examination?	Exudative pharyngitis/laryngitis or pseudomembrane present? Lymphadenopathy (swollen glands) in neck? Stridor or wheezing? Fever?
Diphtheria toxoid vaccination history?	Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (not up to date)?
Possible exposures and risk factors?	Travel to areas with endemic disease the prior 1-3 weeks? Contact with animals (dogs, cats, horses)? Ingestion of unpasteurized dairy products? On immunosuppressants?
Laboratory testing to confirm <i>C. diphtheriae</i> ?	Culture + biochemical tests (API Coryne)? Culture + MALDI-TOF?
Other tests to assess differential diagnoses?	Rapid strep (group A <i>Streptococcus</i> )? Monospot (EBV)? KOH prep ( <i>Candida</i> ) HIV?