



DIPHTHERIA

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Diphtheria is a respiratory disease caused by bacteria. The first president of the U.S., George Washington, died from diphtheria. These bacteria live in the mouth, throat and nose of an infected person. They can be spread easily to others by coughing or sneezing. Some people with diphtheria might not even seem ill, but they can still spread the disease. Symptoms of diphtheria include a sore throat, a slight fever, and chills. Sometimes a thick membrane forms in the throat, making it hard to swallow or breathe. Diphtheria vaccine is usually given to children together with tetanus and pertussis vaccine in one shot called DTaP.