

NT Centre for Disease Control - Diphtheria contact management, CUTANEOUS DIPHTHERIA

Period of communicability: From onset date of case’s skin infection / when the swab was taken.

|                                                                                 | HIGH RISK CONTACT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | LOW RISK CONTACT                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
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|                                                                                 | Household-like contacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Early childhood education and care settings, schools and social gatherings                                                                                                                                                                     | Health care workers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Shared residential settings (e.g. prisons, hospital wards (patients) and boarding schools)                                                                                                                                        | Early childhood education and care settings, schools and social gatherings                                         | Health care workers                                                                             |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
| Exposure<br>(from date of skin infection)                                       | Those who have spent most of a day (8 hours), overnight or multiple days during the infectious period in the same house (or dormitory type room) and had direct interaction with a case, including intimate partners. Those who had close physical contact or had direct contact with skin lesions or exudate, dressings or contaminated items (e.g. towels, clothing, bedding) of a case                                                                                                                                                | Those who are known to have had direct contact with a case's uncovered wound                                                                                                                                                                   | Had direct contact with the wound of a case in a situation where droplets may be generated and was not wearing appropriate PPE (e.g. wound irrigation generating droplets, or other activities identified as high-risk by CDC/IPC)                                                                                                                          | Any exposure other than direct contact with a case's uncovered wound. (including sharing open recreational spaces)                                                                                                                | Any exposure other than direct contact with a case's uncovered wound. (including sharing open recreational spaces) | Direct exposure to skin lesions or wound of a case where droplet generation did not occur       |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
| Education                                                                       | Provide <a href="#">factsheet</a> and detailed PH follow-up.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Provide <a href="#">factsheet</a> and detailed PH follow-up.                                                                                                                                                                                   | Individualised PH advice in consultation with IPC/IFD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Provide <a href="#">factsheet</a> and general PH information available.                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
|                                                                                 | • Monitor for symptoms for 7 days after last exposure, including skin and respiratory symptoms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
| Test                                                                            | • Testing of asymptomatic high-risk contacts with a throat and wound swabs (where applicable) is recommended*<br>• Symptomatic high-risk contacts should be managed as a suspected case                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Testing if symptomatic                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
| Vaccinate                                                                       | • If >12 months since last diphtheria-containing vaccine: <a href="#">give booster</a> .<br>• If incompletely vaccinated, <a href="#">complete the primary/catch-up course</a> (offered and strongly recommended).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | If incompletely vaccinated, <a href="#">complete the primary/catch-up course</a> through their usual healthcare provider.<br><b>All low risk contacts should receive a <a href="#">diphtheria booster dose every 5 years</a>.</b> |                                                                                                                    | Healthcare staff are required to have a <a href="#">diphtheria booster dose every 5 years</a> . |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
| Chemoprophylaxis                                                                | <div>Chemoprophylaxis recommended for all high risk contacts.</div> <table><tr><th>Adult</th><th>Children (Up to age 18 years)</th></tr><tr><td>Azithromycin 500mg daily PO for 5 days OR<br/>Amoxicillin 1g oral tds for 7 days</td><td>Azithromycin 10mg/kg (max 500mg) for 5 days OR<br/>Azithromycin 30mg/kg (max 2g) single dose OR<br/>Amoxicillin 30mg/kg (max 1g) tds for 7 days</td></tr></table> <div>Further clinical assessment if upper respiratory tract infection symptoms develop and managed as a suspected case.</div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Adult                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Children (Up to age 18 years)                                                                                      | Azithromycin 500mg daily PO for 5 days OR<br>Amoxicillin 1g oral tds for 7 days                 | Azithromycin 10mg/kg (max 500mg) for 5 days OR<br>Azithromycin 30mg/kg (max 2g) single dose OR<br>Amoxicillin 30mg/kg (max 1g) tds for 7 days | Not recommended for low risk contacts.<br>Further clinical assessment if clinically suspected diphtheria. |  |  |
| Adult                                                                           | Children (Up to age 18 years)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |
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| Exclusion                                                                       | Avoid contact with people who are vulnerable to severe disease** until 72 hours of an appropriate course of antibiotics have been completed OR until negative test results from throat and any wound swabs are obtained, whichever is shorter. Consider cohorting or single room if required in shared residential settings.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Avoid contact with people who are vulnerable to severe disease** until 72 hours of an appropriate course of antibiotics have been completed OR until negative test results from throat and any wound swabs are obtained, whichever is shorter. | Healthcare workers who are high risk contacts should be excluded from work until 72 hours of an appropriate course of antibiotics have been completed OR until negative test results from throat and any wound swabs are obtained, whichever is shorter.<br>If the healthcare worker is unable to remain excluded from the workplace, discuss with IPC/IFD. | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |  |  |

Note: Contacts at any risk level who are symptomatic should be directed to seek assessment and treatment.

\* Swabs, throat and wound, should be accompanied by clear documentation of collection site, relevant clinical details and epidemiological information on the request form.

\*\*Vulnerable individuals and settings include infants aged 6 months and under, the elderly and immunosuppressed individuals. In the household this requires avoidance and in work situations this requires exclusion from the workplace. Settings including childcare, healthcare and aged care.