

Since vaccination the number of Diphtheria cases has dropped from 23,269 in 2019 to 722 in 2021.

Caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheria*, which mainly infects the **THROAT** and **UPPER AIRWAYS**, and produces a toxin that affects other organs.

It is transmitted through direct physical contact with an infected person or animal.

6 DOSES are recommended (3 primary doses, followed by 3 booster doses).

The primary series should begin at **6 WEEKS OF AGE** with subsequent doses given at a minimum interval of 4 weeks between doses.

For booster doses there should be at least 4 years between doses: at two years, at 4 to 7 years, and at 9 to 15 years.