

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

Symptoms of respiratory diphtheria?	Difficulty swallowing? Sore throat? Changes in voice? <i>Upper</i> airway obstruction? (Lower airway disease isn't typical of diphtheria) Severity of illness – toxic appearing?
On examination?	Pseudomembrane present? Lymphadenopathy (swollen glands) in neck? Stridor or wheezing? <i>Low grade</i> fever? (High grade fever is not typical in diphtheria)
Diphtheria toxoid vaccination history?	Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (not up to date)?
Possible exposures?	Travel to areas with endemic disease within the prior 3 weeks?
Other risk factors?	On immunosuppressants?
Laboratory testing supportive of <i>C. diphtheriae</i> ?	Gram stain that reveals pleomorphic gram positive bacilli?
Other tests to assess differential diagnoses?	Rapid strep (group A <i>Streptococcus</i> )? Monospot (EBV)? KOH prep ( <i>Candida</i> )? HIV?