

Diphtheria (*Corynebacterium diphtheriae*)

2010 Case Definition

Case classification

Probable:

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, an upper respiratory tract illness with:

- an adherent membrane of the nose, pharynx, tonsils, or larynx; and
- absence of laboratory confirmation; and
- lack of epidemiologic linkage to a laboratory-confirmed case of diphtheria.

Confirmed:

An upper respiratory tract illness with an adherent membrane of the nose, pharynx, tonsils, or larynx; and any of the following:

- isolation of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* from the nose or throat; or
- histopathologic diagnosis of diphtheria; or
- epidemiologic linkage to a laboratory-confirmed case of diphtheria.