

UPDATE ON DIPHTHERIA IN INDONESIA

December 2017

Diphtheria is a serious disease caused by a toxin (poison) made by bacteria. The disease could be deadly. It can affect people of all ages, but most often it strikes unimmunized children.

What are the symptoms of diphtheria? Diphtheria starts with a sore throat, mild fever (38 degree celsius), and chills. The diphtheria toxin makes a thick coating in the back of the nose or throat. It may be white or greyish. The coating makes it hard to breathe or swallow, a bull neck type swelling is seen.

How does diphtheria spread? Diphtheria spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It spreads rapidly among close contacts. Rarely, transmission may occur from skin lesions or articles soiled with discharges from lesions of infected persons (fomites). A person who does not receive treatment can spread the disease for about 2 weeks after infection.

Current Situation in Indonesia: Until the end of the 48th week of 2017, 591 cases have been reported from 95 districts in 20 provinces. The majority i.e. 80% of these cases have been reported from seven provinces (Banten, West Java, East Java, Bangka Belitung, Jambi, and Lampung). Some cases have also been reported in Jakarta province. Most cases are seen among young children under 18 years of age who were either not vaccinated or were partially vaccinated. A person showing the above symptoms must immediately seek medical consultation

Response: Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the situation in consultation with team of experts and appropriate surveillance, immunization and case management guidelines have been provided. Indonesian Pediatric Association (IDAI) has also reinforced messages to its members.



ORI Outbreak
Response
Imunization
D I P H T E R I
Dimulai 11 Desember 2017
untuk anak usia 1 - <19 tahun

Outbreak response Immunization (ORI) has been planned for children living in highest risk areas to close the immunity gaps by provided them with additional doses of diphtheria containing vaccines. A special vaccination campaign is being launched from the second week of December starting in selected districts of three provinces (see the next map). The types of vaccine used in the coming ORI are;

- Children under 5 years old : Pentavalent vaccine.
- Children 5-7 years old : DT vaccine.
- Children above 7 years old to 19 years old: Td vaccine

The additional doses are **free of cost** and provided from 11th December 2017 onwards through Puskesmas, Posyandus and hospitals. This ORI will be expanded to other high risk areas in the coming weeks

The best way to protect your family from diphtheria is to make sure that you and your family members have taken all recommended diphtheria vaccines and its booster doses. Immunity wanes over time and a booster dose of vaccine is recommended every 10 years to maintain protective antibody levels.

WHO position: All children worldwide should be immunized against diphtheria. Recent diphtheria outbreaks reflect inadequate vaccination coverage and have demonstrated the importance of sustaining high levels of coverage in childhood immunization programmes and need for timely booster doses.

For more information please visit:

WHO <http://www.who.int/immunization/diseases/diphtheria/en/>

MOH: <http://www.depkes.go.id/article/view/17120500001/-imunisasi-efektif-cegah-difteri.html>

