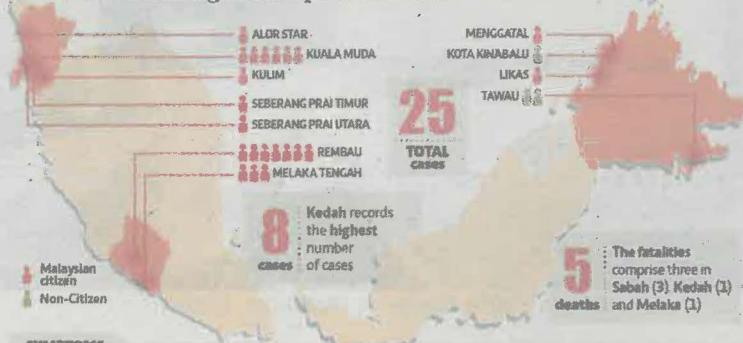


Number of diagnosed diphtheria cases



SYMPTOMS

Occurs after **1 to 5** days, sometimes longer, after a person is exposed to an infected patient. This interval is called the incubation period

Usually the infected person will experience moderate fever and sore throat due to mild exudative pharyngitis

In a moderate infection, it causes swelling of the neck (called "bull-neck") due to enlarged cervical lymph nodes and oedema of the surrounding soft tissue



In severe cases, pseudo-membranes gradually form in the throat. It produces a toxin that can damage organs, such as the heart (myocardium), kidneys and nervous system



In children under 3 to 4 years of age, infection starts with the gradual onset of stridor, hoarseness and weakness of the voice, which progresses to airway obstruction



FACTORS

Partially immunised or unimmunised persons

Living in crowded environments

Poor hygiene

Living areas with poor ventilation and natural lighting

Not practising good sneezing and coughing etiquette

SPREADS THROUGH

Respiratory droplets or direct contact with the nasopharyngeal secretions of an infected person

Cleanliness of the neighbourhood surroundings does not contribute to the spread of the disease