



**DIVISION OF PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
HOSPITAL ROAD, LEEWARD HIGHWAY**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

The Regional Health Body of the Caribbean has sent out an alert to countries in the Caribbean regarding the re-emergence of Diphtheria in Haiti, following the recent earthquake.

The United Nations agencies are helping health authorities in Haiti carry out an emergency vaccination campaign after an outbreak of diphtheria in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

*Diphtheria* is an infectious disease that spreads from person to person through respiratory droplets from the throat through coughing and sneezing. The illness usually affects the tonsils, pharynx, larynx and occasionally the skin. Symptoms range from a moderately sore throat to toxic life threatening diphtheria of larynx or of the lower and upper respiratory tracts.

In an effort to safe guard the population of the Turks and Caicos Islands the Ministry of Health is offering the vaccine to those persons who are travelling to Haiti as well as airline personnel who are in constant contact with people coming into the country.

A representative from the Pan American Health Organization has also advised that persons travelling to Haiti should receive the adult DT (vaccine that prevents this disease) at least two weeks prior to travel. This refers to persons who were not previously vaccinated or who have not received the vaccine in the last ten years.

**All persons travelling to Haiti are advised to visit the Primary Health Care Department at the Cheshire Medical Center from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 am to 3:00 pm to receive their vaccines.**

Sincerely

Alrisa M. Gardiner  
Public Health Nurse