

# Antibiotics aren't always the answer.

If you or your child start feeling under the weather, you may wonder if an antibiotic is needed. Talk to your doctor about your symptoms and keep these tips in mind:



- **Antibiotics only treat infections caused by bacteria**, like strep throat and pneumonia.
- **Antibiotics don't work against viruses**, like the common cold, the flu, early sinus infections, and acute bronchitis.
- **Taking an antibiotic when you don't need it can cause antibiotic resistance.**  
That means in the future, if you really need an antibiotic, it may not work.
- **If your doctor does prescribe an antibiotic, take it correctly.**  
Closely following usage directions will help to avoid antibiotic resistance.



If you have specific questions about antibiotics, or if you start to develop side effects, reach out to your doctor.

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