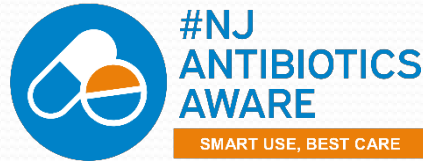


Antibiotics

Will they work when
you really need them?



**Together we CAN
preserve the power of
antibiotics!**

**It's up to all of us to do
our part and learn
more.**

**Visit the CDC's website
at:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/index.html>

**and the NJDOH website
at:**

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ar.shtml>

The Get Smart:
Know When
Antibiotics Work
campaign helps
raise awareness of
proper antibiotic
use.

New Jersey Department of Health
Communicable Disease Service
PO Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625



Antibiotic resistance is when bacteria change in such a way that they build up the ability to withstand the power of antibiotics. They become stronger and are no longer killed by the antibiotics. Without antibiotics, infections that were once able to be cured, may become deadly.

Each year in the U.S. at least 2 million people get sick from antibiotic resistant germs. **At least 23,000 die from these infections.**

Antibiotics **can only** treat illness caused by **bacteria**.

Some examples are:

- Strep throat
- Staph infections
- Some types of pneumonia

Antibiotics **cannot** treat illness caused by **viruses**.

Some examples are:

- Colds
- Flu
- Most ear infections
- Most bronchitis

Most times when you are sick with a virus, all you need is rest and fluids. Your body needs time to fight off the virus.

Ask your doctor for other things you can do to help your symptoms.

Three things you can do:

- 1. Do not** skip doses and finish all of the antibiotics (unless your doctor tells you to stop).
- 2. Do not** share your antibiotics or save some for the next time you are sick.
- 3. Do not** ask your doctor for antibiotics.