Antibiotics
Will they work when you really need them?

#NJ ANTIBIOTICS AWARE
SMART USE, BEST CARE

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.