

Antibiotic misuse — *you could be doing it*

Antibiotics that are overused or misused can lead to “superbugs.” These are bacteria that can’t be killed by antibiotics. Some of these bacteria can be deadly if they get in your body. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says this is one of the top health threats in our world today.

Each year **2 MILLION**
people become **INFECTED** with
antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

At least **23,000**
people **DIE**
from these infections.

What can you do to prevent antibiotic misuse?

- Antibiotics do not treat viruses. Do not ask your doctor for an antibiotic for a viral illness.
- Do not take antibiotics unless your doctor prescribes them — and don't save old antibiotics.
- Take your antibiotics exactly as your doctor tells you.
- Finish your entire course of antibiotics — even if you feel better.
- Do not take someone else's antibiotics.
- Don't share your antibiotics with others.

Antibiotics **DO NOT** cure viruses such as:

COLDS



The FLU



**Most
SORE THROATS**



**Many
SINUS INFECTIONS**

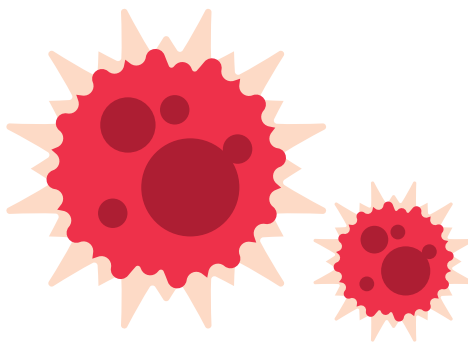


**Many
EAR INFECTIONS**



Taking an antibiotic for a virus:

DOES NOT PREVENT
spreading the virus to others



DOES NOT HELP
you feel better

Illnesses that **SHOULD BE TREATED** with antibiotics include:

- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- Strep throat
- Urinary tract infections

*If we only use
antibiotics when
needed, we can
help stop more
superbugs from
spreading.*