

ANTIBIOTICS FIGHT INFECTIONS CAUSED BY BACTERIA, NOT VIRUSES

ANTIBIOTICS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Destination >>> Health



OVERVIEW

Antibiotics are a type of medicine that fights health issues caused by bacteria such as eye, throat, and bladder infections. Antibiotics do not work against viruses. That's why your Doctor will not always order antibiotics when you are sick. Only your Doctor can tell what kind of infection you have, if you need antibiotics, and which one is best for you to take.

**Antibiotics Kill Bacteria Only.
NOT Viruses.**



SOME HEALTH ISSUES CAUSED BY BACTERIA:

- Ear/eye infections
- Sinus infections
- Throat infections
- Some skin infections
- Urinary tract infections

SOME HEALTH ISSUES CAUSED BY VIRUSES:

- Most colds and the flu
- Most coughs
- Certain types of bronchitis
- Runny nose
- Certain types of rash



IF YOUR DOCTOR ORDERS ANTIBIOTICS

- ♥ Make sure you take your medicine the way your Doctor tells you.
- ♥ Take the full course of antibiotics. Don't stop just because you are feeling better; there could still be bacteria left to make you sick again.
- ♥ Never take antibiotics leftover from an old prescription or given to you by someone else.
- ♥ Make sure to read warning labels, and check with your Doctor or Pharmacist about what food and drinks you should not have while on your medicine.
- ♥ Talk to your Doctor about side effects or allergic reactions.

Don't insist on antibiotics. Let your Doctor make the call. Remember, taking antibiotics when you don't need them can cause these medicines not to work when you do need them.

RESOURCES

Call the **IEHP 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line** at **1-888-244-IEHP (4347)** or **1-866-577-8355** for **TTY users**.

IEHP OFFERS MANY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

To sign up for a program:
Call **IEHP Member Services** at
1-800-440-IEHP (4347)
TTY users may call **1-800-718-4347**

You can also sign up online at
www.IEHP.org
Choose Member LOGIN to sign in or to
set up your account. Then select
"Health Ed" to find a program.

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