

## Antibiotics Awareness

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

**Antibiotics can save lives.** When a patient needs antibiotics, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects and antibiotic resistance.

**Antibiotics aren't always the answer.** Improving the way healthcare professionals prescribe antibiotics, and the way we take antibiotics, helps keep us healthy now, helps fight antibiotic resistance, and ensures that these life-saving antibiotics will be available for future generations.

**Antibiotics do not work on viruses,** such as those that cause colds, flu, bronchitis, or runny noses, even if the mucus is thick, yellow, or green.

**Antibiotics are only needed for treating certain infections caused by bacteria,** but even some bacterial infections get better without antibiotics. Antifungal drugs treat fungal infections.

**An antibiotic will not make you feel better if you have a virus.** Respiratory viruses usually go away in a week or two without treatment.

**Taking antibiotics can contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance.** Antibiotic resistance occurs when germs like bacteria and fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them.

**Do your best to stay healthy and keep others healthy by cleaning hands by washing with soap and water** for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; staying home when sick; and getting recommended vaccines.