Talk to your Pharmacist about antibiotics

Kentucky ANTIBIOTIC Awareness
Working together to keep the BAD BUGS out of the Bluegrass!
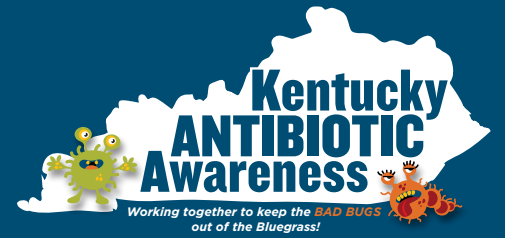
Do I really need antibiotics?

Say yes to antibiotics
When needed for certain infections caused by **bacteria**

Say no to antibiotics
for **viruses** such as colds and flu, or runny noses, even if the mucus is thick, yellow or green. Antibiotics also won't help for some common bacterial infections including most cases of bronchitis, many sinus infections, and some ear infections.
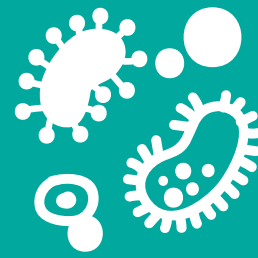
Antibiotics are only needed for treating certain infections caused by bacteria.

Antibiotics do **NOT** work on viruses.

Do antibiotics have side effects?

Any time antibiotics are used, they can cause side effects. When antibiotics aren't needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could still hurt you. Common side effects of antibiotics can include:

Rash **Dizziness** **Nausea** **Yeast Infections** **Diarrhea**

More serious side effects include *Clostridium difficile* infection (also called **C. difficile** or *C. diff*), which causes diarrhea that can lead to severe colon damage and death. People can also have severe and life-threatening allergic reactions.

Antibiotics save lives. When a patient needs antibiotics, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects.

1 out of 5
medication-related visits to the ED are from reactions to antibiotics.

How can we help?

- Over the counter treatments
- How to take your prescription
- Common side effects
- Vaccinations

UofL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE
SMART USE, BEST CARE