

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Antibiotic resistance arises when bacteria change to protect themselves against an antibiotic.

Resistance is increasing and the number of effective antibiotics is decreasing. This means that one day no antibiotics may be left to fight life-threatening diseases.



In the last

25 YEARS

no new antibiotics have been discovered.



Antibiotics and
vaccinations have added

20 YEARS

to our lives.



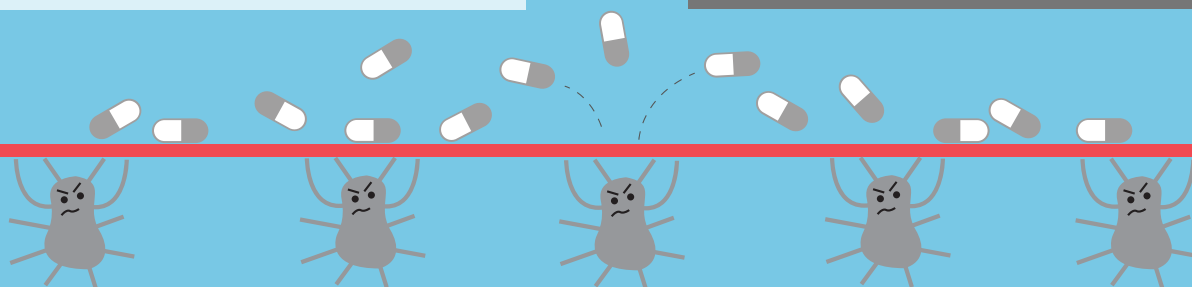
WHAT DO ANTIBIOTICS DO?

Antibiotics are medicines used to treat infections caused by bacteria such as tuberculosis, blood stream infections and pneumonia. They kill the bacteria or stop them from growing.

ANTIBIOTICS KILL BACTERIA - NOT VIRUSES.

Take antibiotics only when prescribed by a doctor for bacterial infections. Do not take them for illnesses caused by viruses such as colds and influenza. They will not work.

9 OUT OF 10 TIMES
a sore throat is
caused by a virus.



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Taking an antibiotic unnecessarily decreases its effectiveness against bacterial infections, so it might not work when really needed. Always check with your doctor before using an antibiotic.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✓ Use antibiotics only when prescribed by a doctor, and ensure your family does so.
- ✓ Take the full prescription, even if you are feeling better.
- ✓ Never share antibiotics with others or use leftover prescriptions.