

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ANTIBIOTICS



1. It is not safe to take leftover antibiotics or antibiotics given to someone else.

Do not keep any extra antibiotics. Do not give your child leftover antibiotics because it might not be the right kind or the right dose to treat the infection your child has. Side effects could happen if the dose is too high, too low, or not the right antibiotic choice. Antibiotics that are expired or stored wrong can cause harm. If you have extra antibiotic doses, do not keep them. Scan the QR code below to learn about ways to throw away medications safely.

2. Your child does not need antibiotics every time they are sick.

Antibiotics should only be used to treat certain infections from bacteria like strep throat or urinary tract infections. Antibiotics do not treat infections caused by viruses, like colds or a runny nose, even if the snot is yellow/green and thick. Antibiotics can cause side effects like diarrhea, vomiting, or rash, so it is important to only take them when they will work the best. Scan the QR code below to learn more about when antibiotics are needed.

3. All antibiotics work differently.

Each antibiotic works differently. Your health care team will pick an antibiotic that works best for the infection your child has and will cause the fewest side effects. This is why you might get one kind of antibiotic one time and a different one the next time.

4. The antibiotics my child takes can affect other people.

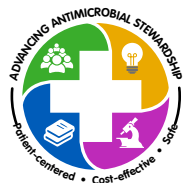
We need antibiotics to get better from infections from bacteria. There are wrong ways to take antibiotics including taking the wrong dose,

taking them for the wrong length of time, or taking them when you don't need to. When antibiotics are taken in the wrong way, bacteria have a chance to learn more and can be harder to treat in the future. This is called antibiotic resistance. The bacteria can be passed to other people and cause infections. These infections are harder to treat because the bacteria have learned to protect themselves from the antibiotics. Scan the QR code below to learn more.

5. Some side effects to antibiotics are normal. Having these does not mean your child should never take that antibiotic again.

If your child had mild side effects, like stomach upset or mild diarrhea, they can use the antibiotic again. If your child developed signs of an allergic reaction, like hives or throat swelling, this could mean they have true allergy and your child should not take the antibiotic again. If family members are allergic to an antibiotic, it does not mean your child will be allergic too. Many children grow out of antibiotic allergies to penicillin or amoxicillin. Children's Mercy Penicillin Allergy Testing Clinic can test your child to see if they are still allergic. Ask your health care team if a referral is right for you. Talk with your health care team about your child's allergies to learn which antibiotics your child should not take.

For More Information
Scan the QR Code or visit:
cmkc.link/when-to-use-antibiotics



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