

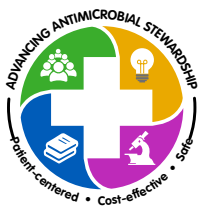


# WHEN DOES MY CHILD NEED ANTIBIOTICS?

Some infections are not treated with antibiotics. It is important to use antibiotics only when they are needed. Antibiotics do not treat infections caused by viruses and should only be used for infections from bacteria. The chart below shows what infections are caused by a virus, bacteria, or both and when antibiotics are needed.

Common Condition	Common Cause			Are Antibiotics Needed?
	Virus	Either	Bacteria	
Bronchiolitis (inflammation of small airways)	X			No
COVID-19	X			No
Flu	X			No
Fluid in the Middle Ear	X			No
Other Throat Infections (except strep)	X			No
Upper Respiratory Infection (Common Cold)	X			No
Otitis Media (Ear Infection)		X		Maybe
Sinus Infection		X		Maybe
Strep Throat			X	Yes
Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)			X	Yes

Content adapted from CDC



**CHILDREN'S MERCY  
ANTIMICROBIAL  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**For More Information**  
Scan the QR Code or visit:  
[cmkc.link/when-to-use-antibiotics](https://cmkc.link/when-to-use-antibiotics)



DISCLAIMER: The content contained herein is meant to promote the general understanding of the health topic(s) described in this publication and is for informational purposes only. Such information does not serve as a substitute for a health care professional's clinical training, experience, or judgment. Individuals and their families should not use such information as a substitute for professional medical, therapeutic, or health care advice and counseling. NO WARRANTY WHATSOEVER, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED BY LAW, IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENT. Copyright © 2023 The Children's Mercy Hospital. All rights reserved. 24-ID-0828. 10/23

