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.



1n the last YEARS

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no new antibiotics have been developed.

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 and vaccinations have added

20 YEARS to our lives.



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.

