

What's Your Antibiotic IQ?

Take the
quiz and
find out!



Minnesota
Antibiotic
Resistance
Collaborative



www.minnesotaarc.org

Members of MARC include Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, HealthPartners, Medica, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Medical Association, Minnesota Pharmacists Association, StratisHealth, and UCare Minnesota.



Question #1



True or False:

Antibiotics will zap a nasty cold or a bad case of the flu - in short order.

Answer: False

- Some diseases are caused by bacteria, others are caused by viruses.
- Antibacterial drugs, or antibiotics, will help fight diseases caused by bacteria, but they don't work against viruses.
- Colds and flu are caused by viruses so antibiotics are not effective against those illnesses.

Question #2



True or False:

Antibiotics are good for treating strep throat.

Answer: True

- Most sore throats are caused by viruses, but strep throat is caused by bacteria.
- If your doctor does a test, and you have strep throat, it will need to be treated with an antibiotic.

Question #3



True or False:

Antibiotics won't help if you have a chest cold – but you'll need them if you have acute bronchitis.

Answer: False

- “Acute bronchitis” and “chest cold” are two different names for the same illness.
- The illness is almost always caused by a virus, so in general, antibiotics won't help.

Question #4



True or False:

If you have green or yellow nasal drainage, your illness is caused by bacteria, not a virus.

Answer: False

- Nasal drainage helps wash away the virus that's making you sick.
- At first it will be clear, but then it will get thicker, and the color will change to white, yellow, or green. But that doesn't mean you need an antibiotic!

Question #5



True or False:

It doesn't matter if your child is sick with a virus or some kind of bacteria. You'll want an antibiotic, either way.

Answer: False

- An antibiotic won't help if your child has a virus.
- And if you misuse antibiotics, people in your family may be sick more often - and more seriously ill when they do get sick!

Question #6



True or False:

It never does any harm to take an antibiotic - even if your illness isn't caused by bacteria, and it won't make you better.

Answer: False

- By misusing antibiotics, you could also be helping to breed "superbugs": resistant bacteria that are not killed by antibiotics.
- Antibiotics are one of our most important weapons in the fight against disease. We cannot afford to misuse them.

Question #7



True or False:

You can stop taking an antibiotic as soon as you feel better - and save the leftover antibiotics for the next time you're sick.

Answer: False

- You need to take all of the antibiotics your doctor gave you, even if you already feel better. You need to kill off all of the germs that made you sick.
- If you try to use "leftovers", you may not be using the right antibiotic for your illness, and if you're using them for a virus, they won't work at all!

Question #8



True or False:

It's no big deal if a few bacteria become resistant to some kinds of antibiotics - there's always something else you can take.

Answer: False

- Don't count on being able to use something else if a "superbug" makes you sick.
- We only have a limited number of antibiotics available. Often, "superbugs" have to be treated with stronger antibiotics.
- These stronger drugs may have more side effects - and you may have to stay in the hospital, and have them given through a vein!

Conclusions



Antibiotics are crucial weapons in the fight against disease. Help us to keep them working.

Always let your doctor decide if you need an antibiotic.

