

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC AND ANTIFUNGAL USE

FACT:

Antimicrobial resistance (AR) can affect people at any stage of life and is an issue across One Health—recognizing the connection between the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and plants and their shared environment. Many risks for antimicrobial-resistant infections are tied to social determinants of health - where you live, environmental exposures, how often you engage with health care, quality of care received, and socioeconomic and other factors that contribute to disparities in health outcomes.

FACT:

Antibiotics DO NOT work on viruses, including those that cause colds, flu, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), or COVID-19.

FACT:

Antibiotics are used to kill bacteria and antifungals are used to kill fungi. Antimicrobial resistance means the germ causing an infection has become resistant to the antibiotic or antifungal treatment. Antimicrobial-resistant infections can be difficult, and sometimes impossible, to treat.

FACT:

Taking an antibiotic or antifungal when you don't need one won't help you feel better, and the side effects could still cause harm. Work with your healthcare provider or veterinarian to find the best treatment when you, your family, or an animal is sick. Antibiotics and antifungals aren't always the answer.

continued on next page.

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FACT:

Antibiotics and antifungals can save lives but can also cause harm. When prescribed, take antibiotics and antifungals exactly as directed. Don't share your antibiotics or antifungals with others or save them for later. Don't take antibiotics and antifungals prescribed for someone else. Taking the right drug at the right time helps combat antimicrobial resistance.

FACT:

Everyone plays a part in combating antimicrobial resistance. Germs will continue to change and adapt but prevention actions can help slow their development and spread. Wash your hands, stay up to date on recommended vaccines, prepare food safely, prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and only use antibiotics and antifungals as prescribed by your healthcare provider.