

# DO YOU NEED ANTIBIOTICS?



**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE

You feel sick and miserable and want to get better fast. It could be a cold or even the flu. You're probably thinking you need antibiotics to knock out your illness and help you feel better. **Not so fast!** When antibiotics aren't needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could still hurt you.

## 8 WAYS TO BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE

**1** Antibiotics save lives, but they aren't always the answer when you're sick.

**2** Antibiotics do not work on viruses.

**3** Antibiotics are only needed for treating certain infections caused by bacteria.

**4** An antibiotic will **NOT** make you feel better if you have a virus.

**5** Any time antibiotics are used, they can cause side effects.

**6** Taking antibiotics creates resistant bacteria.

**7** If you need antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed.

**8** Stay healthy: clean hands, cover coughs, and get vaccinated, for the flu, for example



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Talk to your healthcare professional about the best way to feel better.

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).