

# MY CHILD WAS GIVEN AN ANTIBIOTIC. NOW WHAT?



Antibiotics can be very helpful for treating infections caused by bacteria, like strep throat or urinary tract infections. However, it's important to follow your health care provider's instructions to help your child take antibiotics correctly and keep them safe. Here are some tips to help your child get the most benefit from the medicine.

- 1. Listen to your health care team.** They may need to change or stop your child's antibiotics 1-2 days after their visit, especially if they did tests during the visit.
- 2. What if my child won't take their antibiotic?** Taking antibiotics can be hard for some children. Scan the QR code below for tips on how to help your child take medications.
- 3. My child feels better, now what?** Even if your child feels better, make sure your child takes all the antibiotic doses. Scan the QR code below to learn why.
- 4. Do not save extra antibiotics.** You should not store them for later. Taking old antibiotics can be dangerous. Do not share antibiotics with anyone. Scan the QR code below to learn how to safely get rid of medications.
- 5. Help! My child isn't getting better.** Depending on the infection they have, your child should start to feel better after 2 to 3 days of antibiotics. If your child is feeling worse or can't take their antibiotic, contact your health care team.
- 6. What side effects should I watch for?** Mild side effects like rash, dizziness, upset stomach, yeast infections, and diarrhea can happen in many children.

Get emergency medical care if your child has:

- Lip swelling
- Wheezing
- Trouble breathing
- Hives
- Severe diarrhea

These are signs of an allergic reaction.  
Your child may need a different antibiotic.

## For More Information

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



**CHILDREN'S MERCY**  
**ANTIMICROBIAL**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

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