

# Is it a bacteria or a virus?

Antibiotics only treat bacterial infections. Viral illnesses cannot be treated with antibiotics. Follow this chart to learn which health concerns require antibiotic treatment.

Illness	Usual Cause		Antibiotic Needed
	Viruses	Bacteria	
Cold/Runny Nose	✓		NO
Bronchitis/Chest Cold <i>(in otherwise healthy children)</i>	✓		NO
Whooping Cough		✓	Yes
Flu	✓		NO
Strep Throat		✓	Yes
Sore Throat <i>(except strep)</i>	✓		NO
Fluid in the Middle Ear <i>(otitis media with effusion)</i>	✓		NO
Urinary Tract Infection		✓	Yes

Source: [www.cdc.gov/getsmart](http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart)