

AMR & COVID-19

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microorganisms (such as bacteria and viruses) change after being exposed to antimicrobial drugs. These changes can mean they become resistant to the drugs used to treat them. There are different types of antimicrobials which work against different types of microorganisms, e.g. antibacterials or antibiotics against bacteria, antivirals against viruses, antifungals against fungi, etc. **Antibiotic Resistance** is caused by the persistent overuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and animal health.



Antibiotics don't treat or prevent viruses, including the one that causes COVID-19!

Antibiotics only work against **bacterial infections**.



What's more, inappropriate antibiotic use raises the risk of antibiotic resistance which puts everyone at risk from even mild infections.

Correct diagnosis is key!

Correct diagnosis is vital for treatment. Testing helps distinguish viral (such as the virus that causes COVID-19) from bacterial infections. This makes it far less likely that antibiotics will be unnecessarily prescribed and used, in turn lowering the risk of antibiotic resistance and optimizing patient care.



When might COVID-19 patients be given antibiotics?



Some patients with COVID-19 may develop **bacterial co-infection**. If this is the case, then health workers might prescribe antibiotics to treat the secondary bacterial infection in those patients.

Never self-medicate with antibiotics!

It's important to listen to the advice of doctors. If you feel unwell, seek out medical help and don't try to diagnose yourself and self-medicate with antibiotics. Remember - **only take antibiotics if you have been prescribed them.**



Practice good hygiene at all times!

Hand hygiene is crucial in times of COVID-19. Practice good hand hygiene at home and in a health care setting by regularly washing your hands. Sneeze and cough into a bent elbow, or a tissue which should be thrown into a closed bin. These are some of the most effective ways of reducing the spread of many infections, including antibiotic resistant organisms.



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#COVID19 #Coronavirus
#AMR #antibioticresistance