

# Will antibiotics help my child feel better?

Antibiotics DO NOT work against viruses like those that cause colds, flu, bronchitis and runny noses, even if the mucous is thick, yellow or green.

Condition	Yes (Bacteria)	No (Virus)	Maybe (Virus or Bacteria)
Bronchitis (chest cold)		●*	
Common cold (runny nose, cough)		●	
COVID-19		●	
Ear infection			●
Influenza (flu)		●	
Pertussis (whooping cough)	●		
Pneumonia			●
RSV/Bronchiolitis		●	
Sinus infection			●
Skin infection	●		
Sore throat		●	
Strep throat	●		
Urinary tract infection	●		

\*In children, the most common cause of bronchitis is a virus.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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