

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

THE RISE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IS A GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS

Over-use and misuse of antibiotics increases the development of drug resistant bacteria, often called superbugs. Superbug infections — including multi-drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis, typhoid and gonorrhea — kill hundreds of thousands of people a year, and the trend is growing.

True or False?

- Drug resistance is only a problem in people who take antibiotics often. False. Anyone, anywhere, of any age, can get a superbug infection, even if you take your antibiotics as prescribed.
- Antibiotic resistance means the bacteria become resistant to antibiotics. True. The spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria makes infections difficult to treat.
- Penicillin-based drugs and other antibiotics can treat colds and flu?
False. Penicillin and antibiotics have no impact on viruses, including those that cause a cold or flu.
- You should stop taking antibiotics when the prescribed treatment course is finished.
True. Stopping too soon, even if you feel better, can cause antibiotic resistance.

Adapted from:
World Health Organization

