

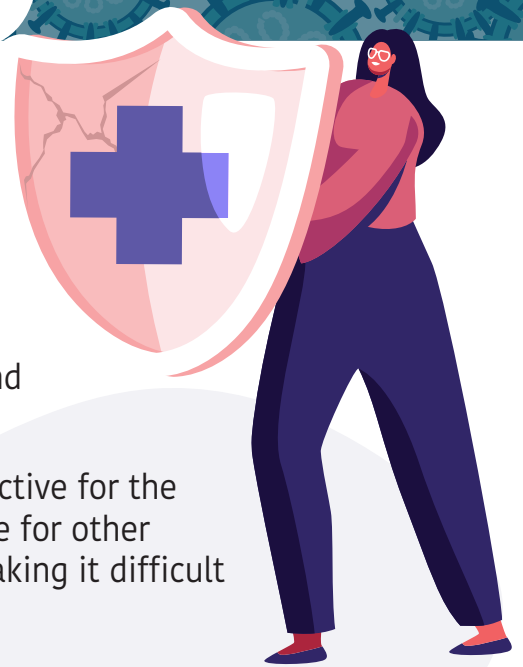
# COVID-19

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## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND COVID-19

**Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** occurs when drugs that fight microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites **lose their potency and become ineffective.**

Antibiotics, a widely used type of antimicrobial, are effective for the treatment or prevention of bacterial infections. Their use for other purposes increases the risk of resistance developing, making it difficult to later cure infections caused by bacteria.



### CAN ANTIBIOTICS BE USED TO TREAT COVID-19?

**Antibiotics are NOT effective and should not be used** to treat diseases caused by viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, or other viral respiratory infections like the flu.

**DO NOT USE ANTIBIOTICS to treat viral infections.**



### WHEN CAN ANTIBIOTICS BE ADMINISTERED TO PATIENTS WITH COVID-19?

If patients with COVID-19 also **develop bacterial co-infections**, qualified healthcare professionals may prescribe antibiotics to treat them.

It is therefore possible, especially in severe cases of COVID-19, that patients receive antibiotic treatment along with other treatments.



### TESTING IS KEY!

Accurate diagnosis is extremely important. **Testing helps to distinguish bacterial infections from viral infections** such as COVID-19 before treatment is started. This prevents the overuse of antibiotics and improves patient care.



### NEVER SELF-MEDICATE WITH ANTIBIOTICS!

If you feel unwell, seek medical attention and **do not try to diagnose or medicate yourself with antibiotics.** Follow your healthcare professional's instructions and only take antibiotics if they are prescribed for you.



### ALWAYS PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE!

Good hand hygiene is **one of the most effective ways** to reduce the spread of many infections, including COVID-19, and those caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.



Practice good hand hygiene wherever you are by regularly washing your hands with soap and water or by using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a bent elbow or with a disposable tissue. When done, throw your tissue in the trash and always wash your hands after. Use a face mask when recommended and make sure you practice good hand hygiene upon removing your mask.