

Antibiotics are essential and lifesaving drugs. However, it is important to know the risks.

## Potential Side Effects of Use

When taken unnecessarily, antibiotics can cause harm. Antibiotic resistance affects adults and children, causing 23,000 deaths each year in the United States.

*Take antibiotics as needed and as directed.*



Antibiotics can be disruptive to the gut microbiome, and to digestive processes, resulting in symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, indigestion, and vomiting.



Some antibiotics can cause increased skin sensitivity resulting in symptoms such as rashes, redness and peeling when skin is exposed to the sun.



Some antibiotics, when used for a prolonged period of time, can cause fungal infections in the mouth, digestive track, and vagina.



Some antibiotics, when used for a prolonged period of time, can cause staining to the teeth and bones.



Some antibiotics can cause adverse reactions when taken with other medications. Please consult with your doctor before taking antibiotics in combination with any drug, including alcohol.



To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit:

[oepe.wv.gov/au](https://oepe.wv.gov/au) | [cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/core-elements](https://cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/core-elements)