

Consumer quiz with answers

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2026

Question	Answer
1. Antimicrobial resistance causes one million deaths annually.	FALSE Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global health threat. In 2021, bacterial AMR was estimated to be associated with more than 4.7 million deaths worldwide. Reference www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antimicrobial-resistance
2. You should take antibiotics when you have a cold.	FALSE Most colds are caused by viruses and will get better on their own. As antibiotics only work against bacterial infections, they are not recommended for treating a cold. Reference www.safetyandquality.gov.au/resources/do-i-really-need-antibiotics-fact-sheet
3. Antibiotic resistance in children has decreased worldwide over the last 20 years.	FALSE A large international study found that antibiotic resistance in children increased worldwide between 2004 and 2022. Resistance increased across all regions, particularly among bacteria that cause serious infections such as sepsis and pneumonia. Reference jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2851769
4. Vaccination is a useful strategy to prevent the spread of infections.	TRUE Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent infections. By reducing the number of infections, vaccines reduce the need for antibiotics and help slow the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance (antibiotic resistance). Vaccines also protect individuals and communities by preventing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. Reference www.amr.gov.au/what-you-can-do/hospitals
5. All infections should be treated with antibiotics.	FALSE Not all infections need antibiotics. Antibiotics only work against bacterial infections and do not treat illnesses caused by viruses, such as colds, flu, most sore throats, and many coughs. Using antibiotics when they are not needed can lead to side effects and contribute to antimicrobial resistance (antibiotic resistance), making antibiotics less effective when they are needed in the future. Reference

	www.safetyandquality.gov.au/resources/do-i-really-need-antibiotics-fact-sheet
6. Many new antibiotics have been developed in recent years, so antibiotic resistance is no longer a major problem.	FALSE Only a limited number of new antibiotics are being developed. Antibiotic resistance remains a major global health problem, which is why it is important to use antibiotics responsibly to help preserve their effectiveness for the future. Reference www.who.int/news/item/14-06-2024-who-releases-report-on-state-of-development-of-antibacterials
7. If you experience nausea or diarrhoea while taking antibiotics, it means you are allergic to the antibiotic.	FALSE Like all medicines, antibiotics can cause side effects. Nausea and diarrhoea are common side effects of antibiotics. An allergy is different to a side effect. Allergic reactions are usually unpredictable and can sometimes be serious or life threatening. Signs of an allergic reaction may include swelling of the lips, tongue or face, difficulty breathing or wheezing. Reference www.allergy.org.au/patients/drug-allergy/antibiotic-allergy-challenges
8. Taking antibiotics when they are not needed or taking the wrong antibiotic can contribute to antibiotic resistance.	TRUE Antibiotics should only be used when they are needed. Taking antibiotics when they are not needed or taking the wrong antibiotic can contribute to antimicrobial resistance (antibiotic resistance), making antibiotics less effective in the future. Reference www.safetyandquality.gov.au/supporting-your-health-care/antibiotics-and-you
9. Different antibiotics are used to treat different infections.	TRUE Infections are caused by different bugs, and different antibiotics work for different bugs. If you have an infection and need antibiotics, do not use leftover antibiotics or use other people's antibiotics as they may not be right for your infection. Reference www.safetyandquality.gov.au/supporting-your-health-care/antibiotics-and-you
10. Antibiotics given by an injection work better than antibiotics taken as tablets.	FALSE Antibiotics given by injections are not always better than antibiotics taken as tablets. Many antibiotics work just as well when taken by mouth, especially once a person is feeling better and able to eat and drink normally. Injections may be needed for serious infections or when someone cannot take medicines by mouth. However, when appropriate, switching from an injection to a tablet is often safer, more convenient, and can help people leave hospital sooner. Reference app.tg.org.au/

For more information

Please visit: safetyandquality.gov.au/AMS

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