How will I know?

Since it's difficult to tell what's causing an infection based on symptoms alone, your healthcare provider can run tests to determine what's causing your illness and the best way to treat it, which may positively impact the following:

Accurate diagnosis

Effective treatment

Faster recovery

Do I need antibiotics?

Antibiotics can only treat certain bacterial infections, and are not effective against viruses. Taking unnecessary antibiotics can cause unpleasant side effects, and may even lead to antibiotic-resistant germs that are even more difficult to treat.

Taking unnecessary antibiotics can cause unpleasant side effects...

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Syndromic Testing: The right test, the first time

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PIONEERING DIAGNOSTICS

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What bug do I have?

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Bacteria or virus?

Respiratory illnesses like the common cold, flu, or even COVID-19 can have similar symptoms—runny nose, coughing, sneezing, congestion, headache, fever, and fatigue. These illnesses require different treatments—depending on whether they're caused by bacteria or viruses.

Common causes of respiratory infections

VIRUSES

- Adenovirus
- Coronavirus 229E
- Coronavirus HKU1
- Coronavirus NL63
- Coronavirus OC43
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
- Human Metapneumovirus
- Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
- Influenza A
- Influenza A/H1
- Influenza A/H3
- Influenza A/H1-2009
- Influenza B
- Parainfluenza Virus
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus

BACTERIA

- *Bordetella pertussis*
- *Bordetella parapertussis*
- *Chlamydia pneumoniae*
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*

Common conditions

While only a qualified healthcare professional can diagnose your illness, various viruses and bacteria are the likely causes of some of these common conditions.

Condition	Bacteria	Bacteria or virus	Virus	Will antibiotics help?
Strep throat	✓			Yes
Whooping cough	✓			Yes
Sinus infection		✓		Maybe
Ear infection		✓		Maybe
Bronchitis		✓		No
COVID-19			✓	No
Sore throat (except strep)			✓	No
Common cold			✓	No
Flu			✓	No

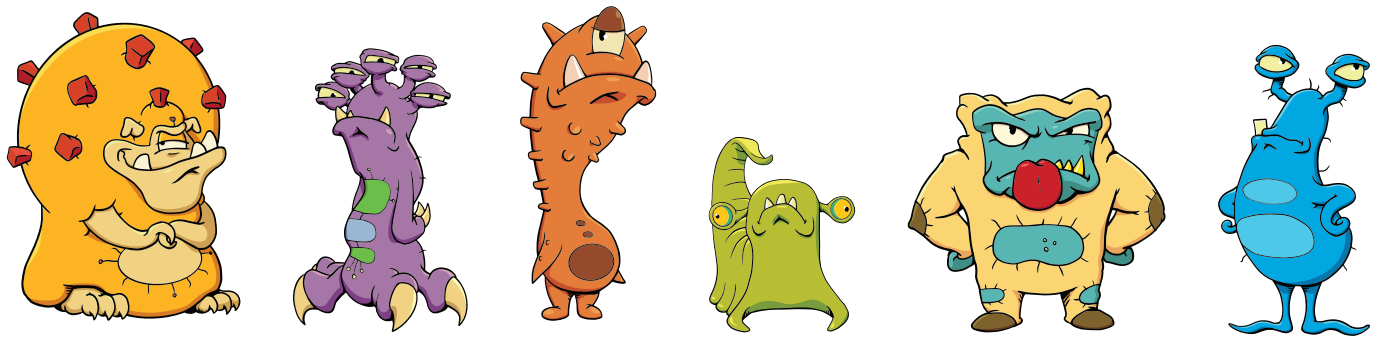
Source: CDC, What's got you sick? CS2722798

How do I get better?

Your healthcare provider will recommend treatment based on your individual diagnosis. Options may include antibiotics for bacterial infections, antivirals for some viral infections, and over-the-counter medications to manage symptoms.

Treating viral infections

Rest & Fluids + Antiviral (in certain cases) + Over-the-counter Medication (to treat symptoms)

Treating bacterial infections

Rest & Fluids + Antibiotic (in certain cases) + Over-the-counter Medication (to treat symptoms)