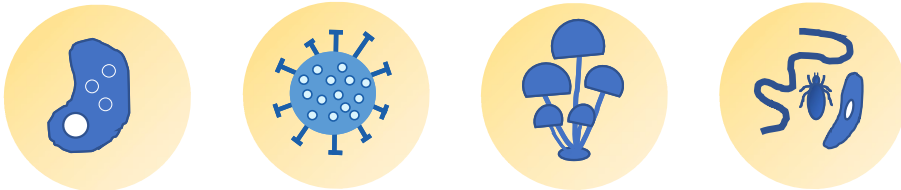


What are 'Antimicrobials'?

Antibiotics • Antivirals • Antifungals • Antiparasitics



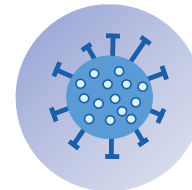
Antimicrobials are medicines used to treat or prevent infections caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites.

They include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics.



ANTIBIOTIC BACTERIA

Antibiotics are used for infections caused by bacteria. They do not work on viral infections such as the common cold and flu. Examples of bacterial infections are school sores (skin), pneumonia (lung) and travellers' diarrhoea (bowel).



ANTIVIRAL VIRUS

Antivirals are used in the treatment or prevention of infections caused by viruses. Many viral infections are mild and often do not require any antimicrobial treatment. Chickenpox, shingles, the flu and common cold are examples of viral infections.



ANTIFUNGAL FUNGI

Antifungals are used for fungal infections. In the community, fungal infections are commonly seen on the skin, nails, and on mucous membranes. Some examples include thrush, ringworm, athlete's foot and nail infections.



ANTIPARASITIC PARASITE

Antiparasitics are medicines used for infections caused by parasites. Parasites are *organisms* that live on or in another organism known as the *host*. Protozoa (malaria), intestinal worms and lice are some examples of parasites.