

WHAT WOULD A WORLD

Without antibiotics be like?

[What would a world without antibiotics be like? - BBC Ideas](#)

This is a short BBC video clip produced in partnership with the Royal Society to provide awareness of the growing problem of antibiotic resistance, otherwise known as the **“the silent pandemic”**. We don't hear about it, but it's already here.

Antibiotics protect people and add, on average, 20 years of life to everyone. But will they continue to do so?

The video also includes a true-to-life story of a child who was sadly lost because he contracted an antibiotic-resistant bacterium, a superbug.

Antibiotics kill bacteria, but bacteria constantly evolve to stay alive. So the more we take antibiotics, the more they develop resistance and the less effective the drugs become. *We have not discovered a new antibiotic in the last 30 years.*

During the Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, Alexander Fleming warned that **“the time may come when penicillin can be bought by anyone in the shops. Then there is the danger that the ignorant man may easily underdose himself, and by exposing his microbes to the non-lethal quantities of the drug, make them resistant”**.

It is predicted that by 2050, 10 million people will die yearly from complications with superbugs or resistant microbes. It would also impact our food chain because animals would get ill, and plants would get ill and die.

What can be done to stop this?

You can help!

[Become an antibiotic guardian](#)

Pledge about how you'll make better use of antibiotics and help prevent antimicrobial resistance.



APC ANTIMICROBIAL GUIDELINE UPDATES

- [Community-Acquired Pneumonia](#) — Added antibiotic treatment for children and young people.
- [Whooping Cough](#) — A macrolide antibiotic is the first-line choice. Treatment should only be started if the onset of cough is within the last 21 days.
- [Tuberculosis](#) — No major update.
- [Blepharitis](#) — Antibiotics are not routinely required. Eyelid hygiene remains the first line.
- [Influenza](#) — Added influenza treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis for adults and children.
- [Oral Candidiasis](#) — Added lifestyle and self-care guidance. Warning regarding concomitant use of oral miconazole gel with warfarin, statins, and sulphonylureas.
- [Otitis Externa Acute and Chronic](#) — Acetic acid 2% spray/drop remains the first line choice for acute and chronic otitis externa, which is available to buy over the counter for adults and children >12 years.

NEWS

[Community Mycology Testing Service](#)

has restarted on the 1st of August 2022 with some changes to the acceptance criteria for testing.