

Health Minute: Difference Between Anti-viral and Antibiotics

Now, a Health Minute.

Both antivirals and antibiotics treat infections.

But which medicine is used depends on the cause of the infection.

Antivirals help fight viruses, like the flu or COVID-19.

When taken early on during a viral illness, they can help:
Ease symptoms, shorten the time you are sick, stop the spread of the virus to others, and prevent serious complications.

Antibiotics, on the other hand, treat bacterial infections. Common ones are strep throat, a bladder infection, or some types of pneumonia.

An antibiotic kills the bacteria in your body. So you feel better.

If you get an infection, trust your healthcare provider to prescribe the right medicine for you.