



DEAR PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

Your child has been diagnosed with _____. I have not prescribed an antibiotic because this condition is a result of a viral infection.

Antibiotics are effective against bacterial infections but not against viruses. Many common respiratory illnesses (such as the common cold or flu) are caused by viruses, and do not require antibiotic treatment.

Using antibiotics when they're not needed can contribute to antibiotic resistance. Antibiotic resistance means that the antibiotics we typically rely on to treat common ailments are no longer effective against the bugs that cause them.

Preventing illness in the first place is another great way to prevent antibiotic resistance. It is recommended that both children and caregivers follow good illness-prevention practices, such as regular hand washing with plain soap and water. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand rub can be used. It is important to keep alcohol-based hand rub out of the reach of children, as it may be harmful if swallowed.

To learn more about responsible antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance, please visit [CANADA.CA/ANTIBIOTICS](https://canada.ca/antibiotics)

Sincerely yours,

