



## Amoxicillin Shortage in BC and Canada

This fall we are seeing multiple impacts from high rates of respiratory infections in children across our health system.

These respiratory infections are driven by viruses; mostly influenza, RSV and some COVID-19; and can cause mild to severe illness in children.

Parents are concerned with news about crowded hospitals especially in central Canada and we are currently also suffering a shortage of amoxicillin suspension products.

Amoxicillin and other antibiotics are not helpful for viral infections such as bronchitis, influenza and COVID-19.

### Steps to support the healthcare system and patients in your practice

1. Determine if antibiotic therapy is the correct choice. Offer patients symptomatic therapy and home management tools such as:
  - Viral Illness “prescriptions”- versions for children and adults:
    - [Children virus prescription](#)
    - [Adult virus prescription](#)
  - Refer patients to [HealthLinkBC](#) for more information on:
    - [Fever management for under 11 years](#)
    - [Fever management for 12 years and older](#)
2. Give additional guidance to help patients determine if a bacterial infection has set in post viral infection
  - [Signs of bacterial infection after influenza](#)
3. If antibiotics are determined to be needed consider prescribing amoxicillin capsules or finding an alternative antibiotic for your diagnosis at [Bugs and Drugs](#)

Thank you for your attention during this busy and stressful time.