

# Acute infectious cough

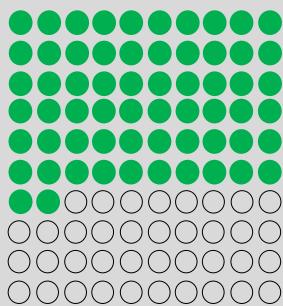
## What causes an acute cough?

It can be caused by viruses ( $\geq 90\%$ ) or less often by bacteria (< 10%) and starts from an upper respiratory tract infection (common cold).

## How long does an acute cough last?

The symptoms of an acute cough usually resolve within **4 weeks** (average duration is 18 days).

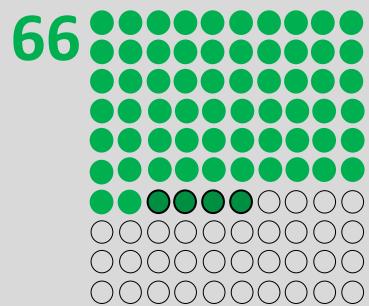
100 affected persons who  
don't take antibiotics



**62**

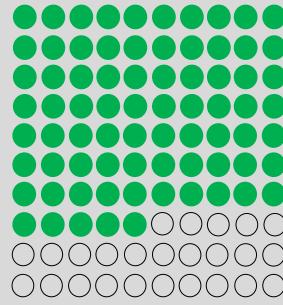
With antibiotics,  
**4 more** people  
out of 100  
will have  
**reduced cough**  
after  
**7 days**

100 affected persons who  
do take antibiotics



**66**

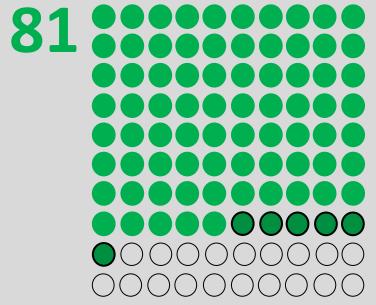
100 affected persons who  
don't take antibiotics



**75**

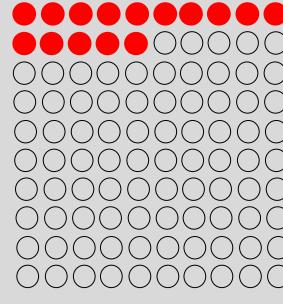
With antibiotics,  
**6 more** people  
out of 100  
will have  
**reduced cough**  
after  
**14 days**

100 affected persons who  
do take antibiotics



**81**

100 affected persons who  
don't take antibiotics

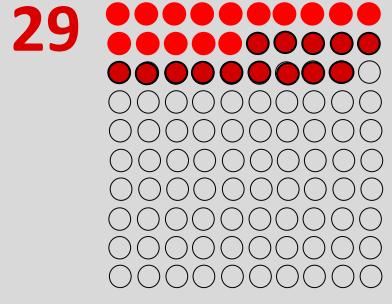


**15**

## Side effects from antibiotics

With antibiotics,  
**14 more** people  
out of 100  
will have symptoms like  
vomiting, diarrhea  
and/or skin rash.

100 affected persons who  
do take antibiotics



**29**