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| Middle-ear infection      | 8 days             | • Have plenty of rest.  
• Drink enough fluids to avoid feeling thirsty.  
• Ask your local pharmacist to recommend medicines to help your symptoms or pain (or both).  
• Fever is a sign the body is fighting the infection and usually gets better by itself in most cases. You can use paracetamol if you or your child are uncomfortable as a result of a fever.  
• Use a tissue and wash your hands with soap to help prevent spread of your infection to your family, friends and others you meet. | If you or your child has any of these symptoms, are getting worse or are sicker than you would expect (even if your/their temperature falls), trust your instincts and seek medical advice urgently from NHS 111 or your GP. If a child under the age of 5 has any of symptoms 1–3 go to A&E immediately or call 999. |
| Sore throat               | 7-8 days           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1. If your skin is very cold or has a strange colour, or you develop an unusual rash.  
2. If you have new feelings of confusion or drowsiness, or have slurred speech.  
3. If you have difficulty breathing. Signs that suggest breathing problems can be:  
• breathing quickly  
• turning blue around the lips and the skin below the mouth  
• skin between or above the ribs getting sucked or pulled in with every breath. |
| Sinusitis                 | 14-21 days         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 4. If you develop a severe headache and are sick.  
5. If you develop chest pain.  
6. If you have difficulty swallowing or are drooling.  
7. If you cough up blood.  
8. If you are passing little to no urine.  
9. If you are feeling a lot worse. |
| Common cold               | 14 days            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Less serious signs that can usually wait until the next available appointment: |
| Cough or bronchitis       | 21 days (a cough caused by COVID-19 may differ) | • If you have any of these symptoms book a COVID-19 test, stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days or until you get a negative test result (www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).  
• Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home for 14 days from the start of your symptoms, or until you get a negative test result.  
• Call 111 or visit www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 if you are worried or not sure what to do. | 10. If you are not starting to improve a little by the time given in ‘Most are better by’  
11. Children with middle-ear infection: if fluid is coming out of their ears or they have new deafness.  
12. Mild side effects such as diarrhea: seek medical attention if you are concerned. |
| Other infection:          | ........ days       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Common symptoms of COVID-19 to look out for are:  
1. A loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste  
2. A high temperature (over 38°C, feeling hot to touch on chest or back)  
3. A new continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes within 24 hours)  
4. A cough or sore throat (a cough caused by COVID-19 may differ)  
5. A loss of taste  
6. A cough that is new or has changed  
7. A cough that makes you feel short of breath  
8. A cough that wakes you up at night  
9. A cough that gets worse or lasts longer than three weeks  
10. A cough that is new or has changed  
11. A cough that makes you feel short of breath  
12. A cough that wakes you up at night  
13. A cough that gets worse or lasts longer than three weeks

Antibiotics may be required after □ days only if you are not starting to feel a little better or you feel worse. Contact your GP practice  
• Colds, most coughs, sinusitis, ear infections, sore throats, and other infections often get better without antibiotics, as your body can usually fight these infections on its own.  
• Taking any antibiotics makes bacteria that live inside your body more resistant. This means that antibiotics may not work when you really need them.  
• Antibiotics can cause side effects such as rashes, thrush, stomach pains, diarrhoea, reactions to sunlight, other symptoms, or being sick if you drink alcohol with metronidazole.  
• Find out more about how you can make better use of antibiotics and help keep this vital treatment effective by visiting www.nhs.uk/keepantibioticsworking

Never share antibiotics and always return any unused antibiotics to a pharmacy for safe disposal.