## Infected game

Difficulty:4 | Ages: 7-16 | Scientific *|* Physical | Time: 10-20 mins

### Learning objectives

* Antibiotics are special medicine that only work on bacteria
* Antibiotics don’t work on viral infections like coughs, colds and flu
* Bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics
* We can help prevent more bacteria from becoming resistant to antibiotics by using them responsibly

### Equipment

* Access to a chair
* Two different coloured sets of stickers

### Activity instructions

#### Game play 1:

1. Choose one child to be infected, this child will sit on a chair in the middle of the room.
2. Choose 3-4 children to hold hands and make a circle around the chair. These children represent the “immune system” and must form a defence around the chair.
3. The rest of the children are armed with stickers, these stickers are the “bacteria” and they must try and infect the person on the chair with stickers.
4. The children representing the immune system must fend off the bacteria attack by protecting the child on the chair, but to make it extra tricky they are not allowed to let their hands go!

#### Game play 2:

1. Try the game again but this time the people in the circle around the chair are antibiotics.
2. The person who is infected is infected by non-resistant bacteria and the antibiotics are allowed to let one of their hands go at a time to pick off any bacteria (stickers).

See how many stickers are left on the person at the end of the game. Have the antibiotics done their job?

#### Game play 3:

1. As game 2 but the children representing bacteria are now resistant and non-resistant bacteria (shown by two different coloured stickers). Give half of the children one colour, and the other half a different colour
2. The antibiotics can let one of their hands go at a time to pick off any non-resistant bacteria but are not allowed to pick off the resistant bacteria stickers.
3. See how many stickers are left on the child at the end of the game. Have the antibiotics done their job?

### Discussion

At the end of game play 3, the child should be covered in antibiotic resistant bacteria. Discuss with the group:

* Why were the ‘antibiotics’ unable to protect the child from the antibiotic resistant infections?
* What does this mean for when we get serious infections that need medicine?
* How can we try to prevent antibiotic resistant infections and keep antibiotics working?