**How to differ common cold (URTI) from pneumonia**

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| **Common cold/URTI – no antibiotics** |  | **Pneumonia – antibiotics** |
| Virus. Antibiotics useless.  Normal children have 6-7 common colds a year and an adult 2-3.  **Symptoms:** Cough Running nose Fever Soar throat Not so sick 3-5 days but can last longer  **Treatment:** Symptomatic (paracetamol, nasal drops, cough syrup) |  | Bacteria. Antibiotic is needed.  **Symtoms:**  Cough  Increased respiratory rate  Respiratory distress  High fever  More sick-looking  Chest wall indrawings and nasal flaring on small children  Crepitations often heard when examining the lungs  **Treatment:** Antibiotics and symptomatic treatment |

**Gastroenteritis**According to Kenyan Basic Paediatric Protocols for ages up to 5 years: “Antimicrobials are not indicated unless there is dysentery or proven amoebiasis or giardiasis.”  
Shigella-dysentery: Bloody diarrhea. Ciprofloxacin.  
Amoebiasis: More sick. Abdominal discomfort. Can be bloody. Metronidazol.  
Giardiasis: Watery diarrhea, abdominal cramping. Metronidazol.

*/Åsa Lundgren, Rotary Doctors’, Sweden, June 2024*