

# Acute infectious cough

For consideration of antibiotic therapy for moderate cough with a moderate likelihood of bacterial cause.

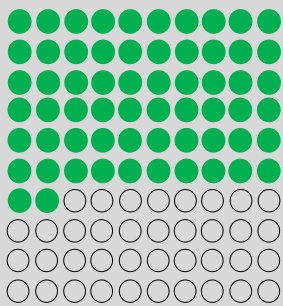
## What causes an acute cough?

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?

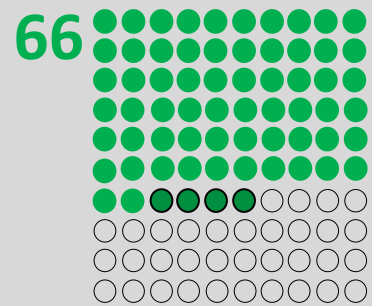
The symptoms of an acute cough usually resolve within **4 weeks** (average duration is 18 days).

100 affected persons who **don't** take antibiotics

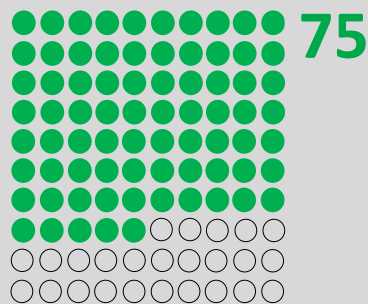


With antibiotics,  
**4 more** people  
out of 100  
will have  
**reduced cough**  
after  
**7 days**

100 affected persons who **do** take antibiotics

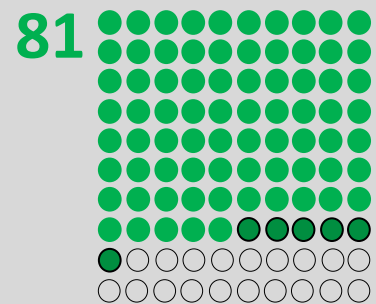


100 affected persons who **don't** take antibiotics

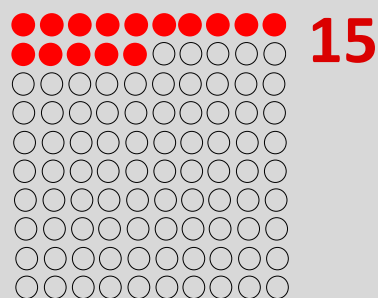


With antibiotics,  
**6 more** people  
out of 100  
will have  
**reduced cough**  
after  
**14 days**

100 affected persons who **do** take antibiotics



100 affected persons who **don't** take antibiotics



**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

