Microbes and disease

Use and misuse of antibiotics: stimulus statements

'I think that you should be able to buy antibiotics over the counter to treat yourself like you can in other countries.'

'I don't see why my doctor won't prescribe antibiotics for me when I visit him complaining of a sore throat.'

'My doctor prescribed a 9 month course of antibiotics to treat my TB. I felt better after a month and stopped taking them. I don't see the problem in that!'

'I had a really bad cold. Luckily I found a part used bottle of antibiotics at my mother's house. There was enough for 4 days and I soon started to feel better.'

Vaccination - just a shot in the arm: stimulus statements

'My son had chickenpox when he was 4, he was only mildly ill and recovered quickly. He is now immune to chicken pox, so why bother with vaccines? We should just let our children get these illnesses when they are young.'

'All vaccines carry a risk of side effects – but the benefits far outweigh the risks.'

'People who refuse to vaccinate their children against childhood illnesses are selfish – they are still benefiting from those that do because of herd immunity.'

'It is irresponsible to prevent your child from being vaccinated: childhood infections can cause serious complications that can leave children permanently disabled or even dead.'