Antimicrobials are medicines produced by living bacteria or fungi or in a laboratory. When given by mouth or injection or applied to living tissue as an ointment or spray, antimicrobials selectively kill or prevent the growth of susceptible microorganisms.

**Key Points**

Anti-coccidials include ionophores which are classed as ‘antibiotics’ in Australia because although they are primarily anti-parasitics, they have some anti-bacterial properties.

Vaccines aren’t antimicrobials. They are generally designed to prevent disease and/or limit disease severity, not treat infection.