

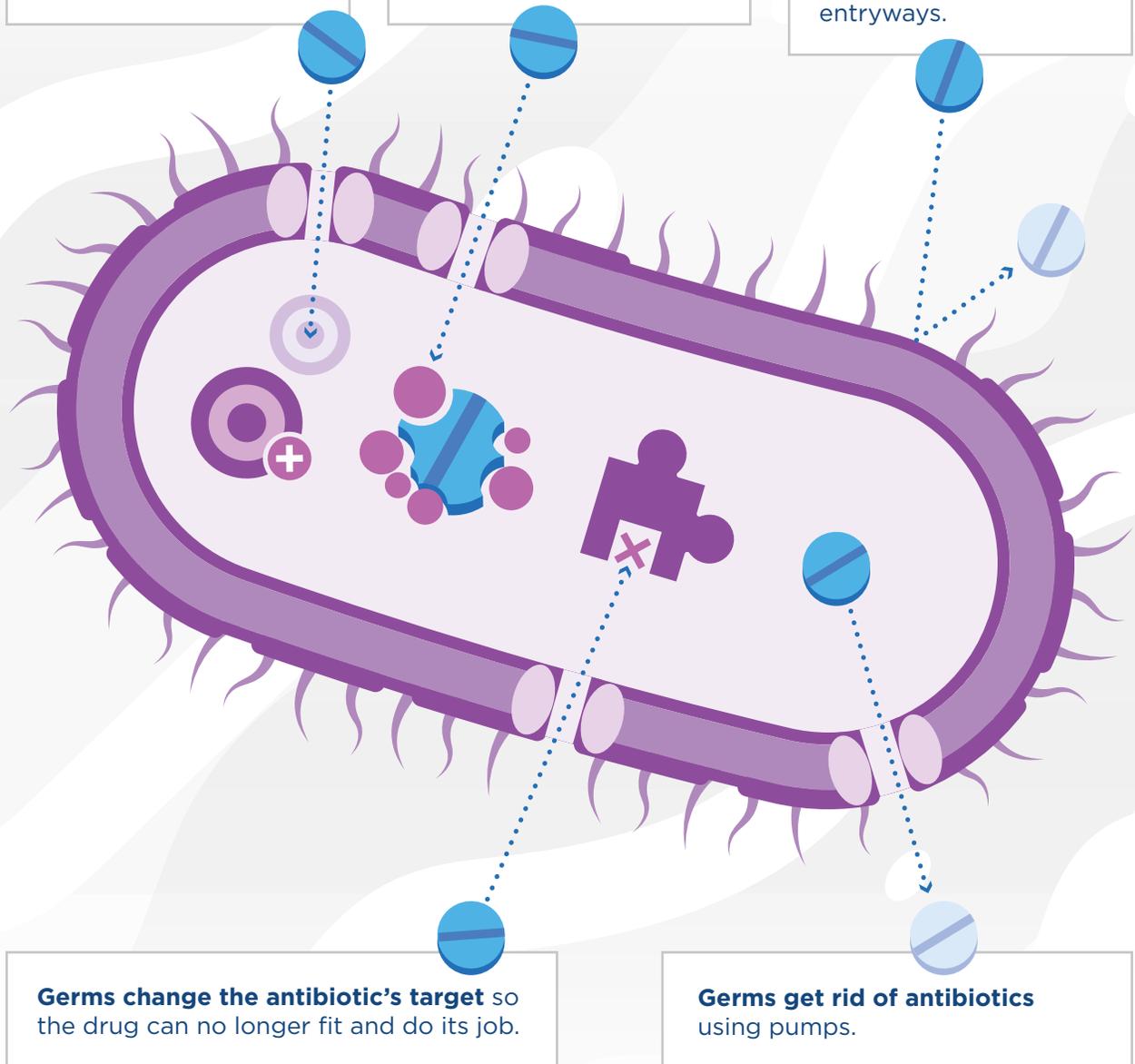
# How Bacteria and Fungi Fight Back Against Antibiotics

Antibiotics fight germs (bacteria and fungi). But germs fight back and find new ways to survive. Their defense strategies are called **resistance mechanisms**. Only germs, not people, become resistant to antibiotics.

**Germs develop new cell processes** that avoid using the antibiotic's target.

**Germs change or destroy** the antibiotics with enzymes, proteins that break down the drug.

**Germs restrict access** by changing the entryways or limiting the number of entryways.



**Germs change the antibiotic's target** so the drug can no longer fit and do its job.

**Germs get rid of antibiotics** using pumps.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention