

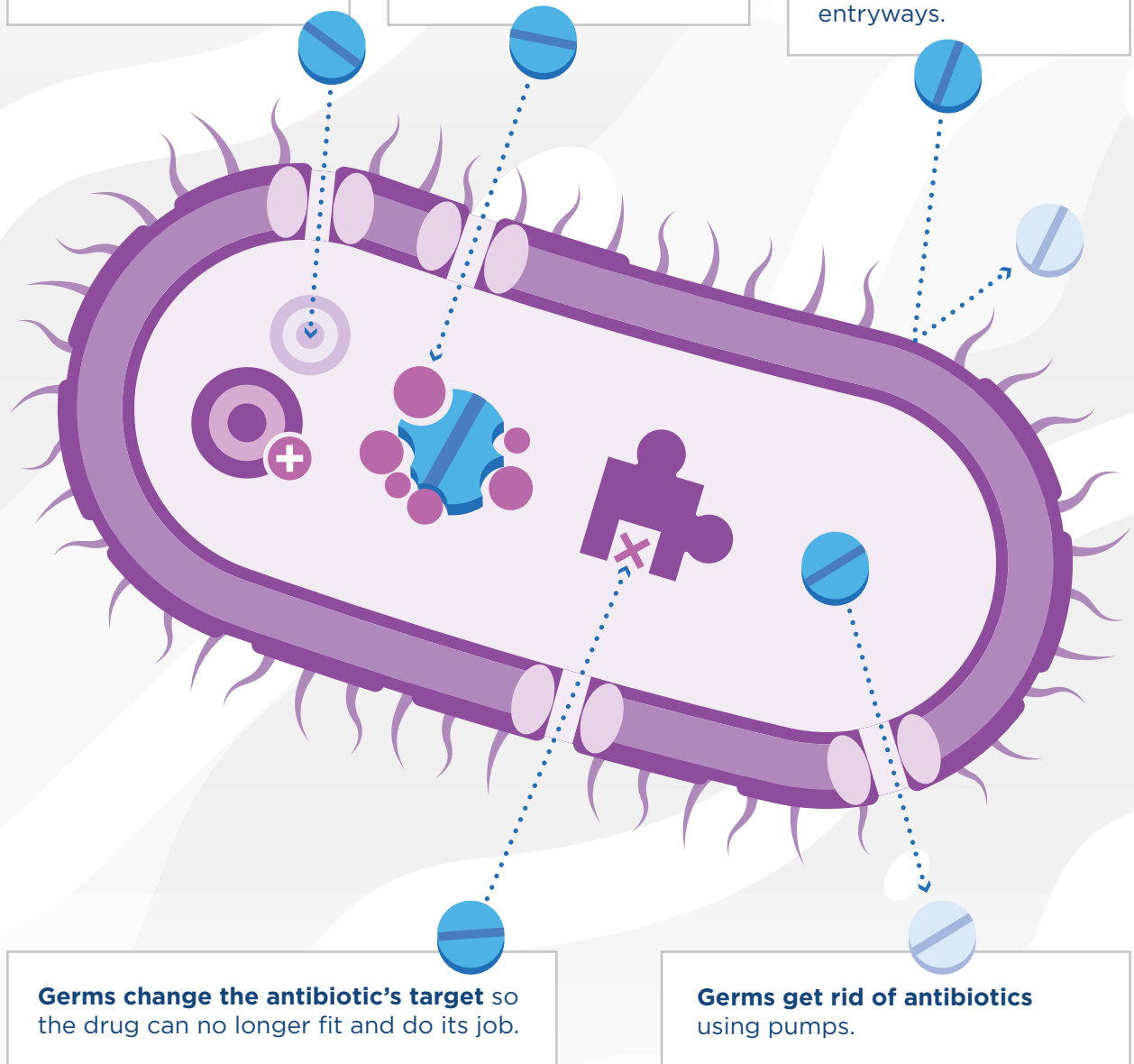
How Bacteria and Fungi Fight Back Against Antibiotics

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