# 2017 Antibiotic Awareness Week Toolkit for Healthcare Organizations and Professionals





Public Health Agence de la santé Agency of Canada publique du Canada

#### Introduction:

Antimicrobial resistant infections are becoming more frequent and increasingly difficult to treat.

The rapid emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistant infections is aggravated by the widespread use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine and in the agriculture industry.

Antimicrobials are amongour strongest weapons against infections in both humans and animals, are losing their effectiveness more quickly than we are identifying and developing new drugs or other treatments. These developments have significant consequences for human health, animal health and welfare, the health care system, food safety, the environment and the economy.

Increasing awareness of AMR and of the importance of using antimicrobials appropriately is one of the actions that can help drive changes that will reduce AMR.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has prepared this toolkit to help you participate in various activities throughout the year, and specifically during Antibiotic Awareness Week from November 13-18, 2017. It includes key messages, social media messages, information about new activities, and links to resources from PHAC and other programs.

#### Goals:

- Increase awareness activities by sharing resources that can be used by others.
- Contribute to increasing public awareness of the need to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics, and
- Increase appropriate prescribing.

## **Key Messages:**

#### **Patients**

- Antibiotic resistance is a growing health concern that Canadians should learn more about.
- The overuse and misuse of antibiotics can cause more bacteria to become resistant to them.
- There are five important steps you can take to reduce the risks of AMR for you, your family and your community:
  - Clean your hands properly and frequently,
  - Prevent the spread of germs by coughing/sneezing into your arm, and if you get sick, stay home,

- Keep your immunizations up to date and get the annual flu shot,
- Store, prepare and handle your food safely.
- Antibiotics only work for bacterial infections, not viruses such as the common cold or flu.
- If you are prescribed antibiotics, take them as prescribed by your health care professional.
- Do not share prescription drugs with anyone, and don't take antibiotics that were not prescribed for you.
- Dispose of prescription medication properly.

## Healthcare Professionals

- Antibiotic resistance puts patients at risk of treatment failure and can lead to the spread of infection.
- You play a key role in the prevention and control of treatment-resistant infections.
- Talk to your patients about why antibiotics may not be needed and provide other therapies for viral infections.
- Remind patients to take antibiotics as prescribed.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has resources on AMR to help you.

#### Animal Health Care

- Veterinarians play a key role in prescribing antibiotics for use in animals.
- Veterinarians are in the best position to make decisions on antibiotic use that balance the best interests of animal health and welfare with those of public health.
- Veterinarians work with clients and their animals to optimize health, prevent disease and minimize the need for antibiotics.
- A valid veterinarian-client-patient-relationship must exist before a veterinarian
  can prescribe a medication for an animal. This is referred to as the VCPR and it
  is required by law. In order to make treatment recommendations that are safe for
  the animal, the VCPR usually involves face-to-face communication with the
  veterinarian and an exam of the animal or animals to determine the animal's
  current health status.
- Veterinarians ensure the right antibiotics and correct dosage are prescribed and administered to treat disease in animals within the boundaries of a valid veterinarian-client-patient-relationship.
- As of December 1, 2018, all medically important antibiotics can only be sold to animal owners with a veterinary prescription.
- Canadian animal health companies will be voluntarily removing growth promotion claims from all medically important antibiotic labels by December 1, 2018.

Canadian animal health companies have voluntarily shared data on the volumes
of antibiotics they distribute with the Public Health Agency of Canada for over a
decade to support surveillance.

# **Activity Ideas:**

- Highlight Antibiotic Awareness Week on your website
- Participate in the Antibiotic Awareness Week thunderclap event to collectively create significant social media activity about AMR (see description below)
- Use Antibiotic Awareness Week as a kickoff to begin a stewardship program
- Issue a press release
- Retweet PHAC and other twitter messages
- Distribute educational materials to the general public (see available Government of Canada resources below)
- Distribute tools and guidelines to healthcare professionals and facilities
- Host local-level events
- Deliver presentations to interested parties
- Post social media messages and participate in the annual Global Twitter Chat at #KeepAntibioticsWorking
- Share information with your organization's membership through e-mail or newsletters
- Develop and promote articles in local media
- Place ads in local or national media (free standing inserts, print ads, television or radio ads, etc.)

# Thunderclap:

A Thunderclap helps amplify social media messages by rallying partners and friends to share the same message at the same time through Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr, so that it cannot be ignored (essentially an online flash mob).

The National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases is leading efforts by AMS Canada supporters to develop a national Thunderclap. Here is the information:



Please adapt this text for use by your organization. Add the name of your organization in the space provided. Ensure you include the URL for the Thunderclap (highlighted below), or use a hyperlink to that URL.

#### #AntibioticWAKEUP THUNDERCLAP

In partnership with the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases, ......invites you to participate in a national 'Thunderclap'—an on-line campaign that broadcasts one resounding antibiotic awareness message across multiple social media accounts all at the same time. It's a wakeup call for Canadians to use antibiotics wisely, supported by healthcare organizations and patient safety proponents throughout Canada. Resources are shared to help professionals, patients, and members of the public to learn and do more to keep antibiotics working. Sign up today [insert hyperlink] to help share a unified message this Antibiotic Awareness Week—it just takes one click! http://thndr.me/XhausZ

#### **Antibiotic Awareness Resources:**

## Government of Canada Web Content:

About Antibiotic Resistance <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/antibiotic-antimicrobial-resistance.html?utm\_source=canada-ca-antibiotics-en&utm\_medium=vurl&utm\_campaign=amr">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/antibiotic-antimicrobial-resistance.html?utm\_source=canada-ca-antibiotics-en&utm\_medium=vurl&utm\_campaign=amr</a>

#### **Antibiotic resistance**

Help prevent antibiotic resistance by learning about its causes, impact and which bacteria and illnesses are antibiotic-resistant. Also discover helpful resources.



#### Services and information

## About antibiotic resistance

Learn how antibiotic resistance develops, how resistant bacteria are spread and how to reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance.

#### **Antibiotic-resistant bacteria and illnesses**

Discover which bacteria and illnesses are antibiotic-resistant and why they can be difficult to treat.

### Impacts of antibiotic resistance

Know the risks of antibiotic resistance to human health and who is most at risk.

# Prevention of antibiotic resistance

Help prevent antibiotic resistance by following these tips on avoiding illness and using antibiotics responsibly.

## Antibiotic resistance research and surveillance

Learn how antibiotic use and resistance are researched and monitored in Canada

# **Antibiotic resistance awareness materials**

Find print-ready and online resources to raise awareness on antibiotic resistance.

## The Government of Canada's response to antimicrobial resistance

We are working to prevent, limit and control the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Learn how the Government of Canada monitors AMR and supports the proper use of antimicrobials (antibiotics) in both humans and animals.

## **Antibiotic resistance and animals**

Learn about antimicrobial resistance and animals, surveillance, policy development and outreach activities.

#### Contributors

- Health Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada

# What we are doing

#### **Publications**

- <u>Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR): Volume 41S-5, November 19,</u>
   2015: Antimicrobial resistance and innovation
- Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS) Report 2016
- National Laboratory Surveillance of Invasive Streptococcal Disease in Canada -Annual Summary 2014
- National Surveillance of Antimicrobial Susceptibilities of Neisseria gonorrhoeae -Annual Summary 2014

#### Initiatives

- <u>Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use: A Pan-Canadian</u> Framework for Action
- <u>Federal Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada: Building on</u> the Federal Framework for Action
- Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada: A Federal Framework for Action
- Pathogen Reduction Initiative
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research Antimicrobial Resistance Initiatives

#### Antibiotic resistance awareness materials

The following materials are available in high quality pdf format through the links below. Consider printing a poster for display in your offices (and remember to replace it when it becomes worn!).

#### Videos:

 How to prevent antibiotic resistance

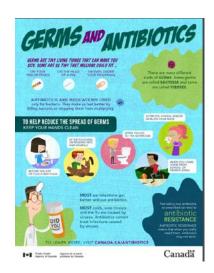


Help reduce antibiotic resistance



## Posters and Brochures:

• Germs and antibiotics



 Antibiotic resistance questions and answers



• <u>Help reduce antibiotic</u> <u>resistance</u> (Infographic)



Antibiotics and adults aged 65+



Does your child have an earache?



 What is antibiotic resistance? (Web banner)

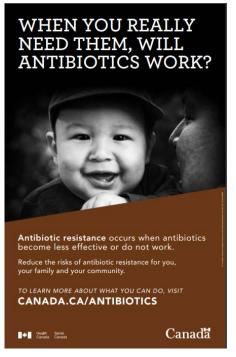


# For Indigenous Populations

 Antibiotic resistance questions and answers



When you really need them, will antibiotics work?



# Surveillance Data on AMR and Antimicrobial Use (AMU) in Canada:

Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS) provides an integrated picture of AMR/AMU in Canada based on available surveillance data from PHAC's nine surveillance systems and laboratory reference services which track the identified priority organisms. The 2017 CARSS Report will be published to this URL: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/drugs-health-products.html

(FR: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/fr/services/sante/publications/medicaments-et-produits-sante.html">https://www.canada.ca/fr/services/sante/publications/medicaments-et-produits-sante.html</a>)

You are encouraged to review the synthesis provided in the report to better understand the state of AMR and AMU in Canada in both humans and animals.

A webinar on the CARSS report will be offered on November 16 2017.

# **Links to other Resources:**

**AMMI Canada**: Business Case for Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs, and Symptom-Free Pee: Let it Be <a href="https://www.ammi.ca/AntibioticAwareness/">https://www.ammi.ca/AntibioticAwareness/</a>

**Antibiotic Wise**: Take the Pledge to Use Antibiotics Wisely! "sign" the pledge and tell others about it. http://antibioticwise.ca/

**Canadian Patient Safety Institute:** Antimicrobial Resistance tools and resources <a href="http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/en/Topic/Pages/Antimicrobial-Resistance.aspx">http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/en/Topic/Pages/Antimicrobial-Resistance.aspx</a>

Choosing Wisely Canada: November 2, 2017 Webinar on Antibiotic Wisely: Sharing Proven Strategies to Reduce Unnecessary Antibiotic Use <a href="https://choosingwiselycanada.org/event/nov2017talk/">https://choosingwiselycanada.org/event/nov2017talk/</a>

# **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:**

http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/en/

# **Quebec Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:**

http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/Productions/santeanimale/maladies/antibio/Pages/utilis ation\_antibiotiques.aspx.

http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/Productions/santeanimale/maladies/Pages/alimentsmedicamenteux.aspx

**National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases:** Antimicrobial Use and Resistance information and tools <a href="https://nccid.ca/collection/antimicrobial-resistance/">https://nccid.ca/collection/antimicrobial-resistance/</a>

**Northern Antibiotic Resistance Partnership:** educational resources aimed at children <a href="http://narp.ca/edu.htm">http://narp.ca/edu.htm</a>

World Health Organization: <a href="http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/en/">http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/en/</a>

World Organisation for Animal Health: http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/amr/

US Centres for Disease Control: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week/index.html</a>