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## In The News

[Looking for sewage on the waterfront](#)- Penn Current

[New class of antibiotic could turn the tables in battle against superbugs](#) – The Guardian

[Obama Budget 2016 Funds Fight Against Antibiotic Resistance](#) – International Business Times

## Weather Events May Trigger Pathogens

Even if you don't visit a hospital or come into direct contact with someone who's sick, you can still be infected by, and potentially get sick from, antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

In many older cities, such as Philadelphia, most of the sewer pipes are "combined." Household pipes (including sewage) and pipes from street drains connect to a common set of pipes. In dry weather, those pipes lead the waste and water to a wastewater treatment plant for treatment and then discharge.

However, during heavy rain, these systems are designed to discharge into surface waters, which floods areas on either side of downstream waterways. After those floodwaters recede, pathogens — including those that are antibiotic-resistant — are left behind.

Walking your dog or picking something up off the ground in an area that has recently been flooded can bring you into direct or indirect contact with these potentially antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Make sure to wash your hands thoroughly, especially before eating.

Read the article [Looking for sewage on the waterfront](#) in *Penn Current*, December 18, 2014, for more information.

## Measles from Coast to Coast – Make sure your children are up to date on their vaccinations.

As of February 20, 2015, there have already been 154 reported cases of measles from 17 different states across the US, including one case in Pennsylvania ([CDC](#)). Many of these 121 cases are linked to an ongoing outbreak that originated from an amusement park in California. Measles can infect both children and adults. This outbreak reminds us of the need to ensure that all children are up to date on their vaccinations for measles and other infectious diseases.



The CDC has a [list](#) of recommended immunizations for children. Dr. Nicole Hackman, MD, a pediatrician and collaborator with the Get Smart program, commented, “The current measles outbreak is a great reminder of the importance and role of vaccination. Measles infection is very contagious and is not benign; it can cause ear infections that result in permanent hearing loss, pneumonia, inflammation of the brain, and for 1-2/1000 infected with measles can lead to death. Adults and young children are at a greater risk for complications. If you are interested in vaccination or would like to learn more, please call your doctor.”



## ASK THE EXPERT!

Our Know When to Say No Newsletter will soon feature an "Ask the Expert" column. Please send any questions you may have to [knowwhentosayno@pa.gov](mailto:knowwhentosayno@pa.gov).

Your questions will be featured in the upcoming newsletters with answers from our collaborators.

For more information about childhood immunizations, please visit our website at [KnowWhenToSayNo.org](http://KnowWhenToSayNo.org) and click on [Immunizations](#).

### New Faces

#### **Welcome to our new physician general, Dr. Rachel Levine!**

Governor Wolf recently selected Dr. Rachel Levine as physician general for the Commonwealth of Pa. Because of her background in pediatrics and her interest, Dr. Levine will support and strengthen the Get Smart initiatives.



We will soon be sharing more details about the initiative in collaboration with the physician general, including an expanded annual art competition, which will include video entries and collaboration with high schools. Our goal is to introduce antibiotics education in biology classes. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Levine as our leader in addressing the threat of antibiotics resistance through Get Smart activities.

#### **Welcome our new Get Smart Intern, Courtney Yealy!**

Courtney Yealy joined the Pa. Get Smart Program in January. Courtney will coordinate Get Smart activities in Central Pennsylvania, including pediatric initiatives led by Dr. Nicole Hackman at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, childcare facilities outreach, and public communications initiatives led by Dr. Rachael Smith at Penn State, University Park.



Courtney is currently pursuing her Masters in Public Health at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. She is in the Community and Behavioral Health track. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in veterinary and biomedical science with a minor in biology at Penn State University in 2013. In addition to her education, Courtney also enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing the guitar, and wedding planning. After completing her education, Courtney plans to continue her career in community health in eastern Pennsylvania.

### **Looking Ahead...**

- On March 6, 2015, Pennsylvania Pharmacy Initiative Workshop will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy. This workshop includes orientation for Get Smart activities implemented in community pharmacies in western part of the state.
- Our Annual Get Smart competition will be accepting entries now through the end of October 2015. More details will follow on the art competition and video entries!

If you have any ideas for future newsletters or would like more information, please feel free to contact us. To unsubscribe, please email us.

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