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In The News

[Antibiotic resistance is a growing menace – we must act before it's too late](#) – The Guardian

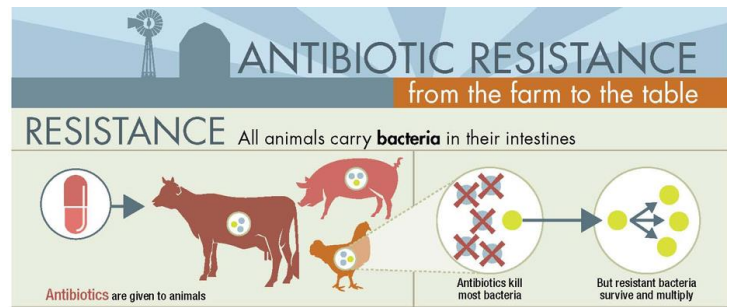
[How to Save Antibiotics: Experts Discuss at Duke Medical School](#) – Natural Resource Defense Council

[Antibiotic-resistant typhoid reaches epidemic level](#) – CBS News

[Pew, School Food FOCUS Announce Antibiotic Standard for Poultry](#) – PEW Trusts

Antibiotics and Animals

Based on FDA estimates, over 70 percent of antibiotics sold in the US are for food-producing animals. Antibiotic overuse in food animals like chickens, cows, and pigs exacerbates the rise of antibiotic resistance.



Click on the image for the full infographic.

As a sign of progress in stewardship, large food companies such as Tyson, McDonalds, Perdue, and Chick-fil-A, have recently made commitments to reducing and eventually eliminating medically important antibiotic use in chickens. These commitments help to slow the emergence of drug-resistant bacteria. Antibiotics are powerful tools, and we need to preserve the strength and efficacy of these drugs against bacteria that invade our bodies.

In May 2015, the Pew Charitable Trusts and School Food FOCUS (Food Options for Children in the United States) announced the development of a new initiative, the Certified Responsible Antibiotic Use (CRAU) standard for poultry suppliers who choose to sell certified chicken to schools, hospitals, and other institutional customers. Compliance with the CRAU standard will be verified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This standard addresses the need for sustainably produced food for schools and the need to reduce overall antibiotic use. The full article is available [here](#).

Get Smart PA Team Funded for New Study

This month, the Get Smart PA team began a new collaboration to study vaccine-preventable illnesses and antimicrobial stewardship in children age 5 and under. Our collaboration includes members from Penn State University, Penn State Hershey Pediatrics, Keystone Stars, and the Pa. Department of Health. The team received a stage one award from an NIH-supported Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Penn State.

This study will evaluate the vaccination status among child care providers, the concept of “watchful waiting” for antibiotic prescription, and caregiver’s acceptance of the watchful waiting concept. Watchful waiting prescriptions are recommendations for which providers write a prescription, while advising caregivers to wait and see if the child’s symptoms improve before filling the prescription. The team’s aim is to better understand how to improve vaccination coverage and antimicrobial stewardship in child care settings.



Ask the Expert!

Please send any questions you may have to knowwhentosayno@pa.gov.

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

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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The Four Core Actions to Fight Resistance

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are [four core actions](#) to fight resistance. In this month's newsletter, we will address the first action:

1) PREVENTING INFECTIONS, PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF RESISTANCE

If we avoid infections in the first place, we reduce the amount of antibiotics that have to be used and reduce the likelihood that resistance will develop.

Here are some simple steps for preventing infections:

- ◆ **Immunizations**
 - Keep children up to date on their preventive medical care. The CDC list of recommended vaccinations can be found [here](#).
- ◆ **Safe food preparation and food storage**
 - Helpful tips and guidelines on keeping a safe, clean environment, cooking to the right temperature, and storing food safely, are found [here](#).
- ◆ **Appropriate hand hygiene**
 - [Clean hands](#) are one of the most important ways to prevent germs from entering your body!
- ◆ **Using antibiotics as directed and only when necessary**
 - Remember, antibiotics won't help [viral illnesses](#).



Check out next month's newsletter for more on the second core action, **TRACKING**.

Test Your Knowledge

Do bacteria cause the cold and flu? Could antibiotics cure my runny nose? Take the [CDC Antibiotics Quiz](#) and find out how much you know about antibiotics!



Looking Ahead ...

- Get Smart will present two posters at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) meeting in Boston, Mass., June 14-18, 2015.
- Our Annual Get Smart competition is accepting entries now through the end of October 2015. Find the details online at knowwhentosayno.org.
- Look for tips and helpful hints from a professional illustrator for creating a great piece of artwork in our next newsletter.

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Get Smart is on Facebook! Our program has an affiliated Facebook run by Penn State Communications Arts and Sciences student volunteers, Kaitlin Shartle and Lydia Glick. Head over to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/GetSmartPa) to like us: Get Smart Pa!

