

## Global Antibiotic Awareness Week

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Antibiotics are sometimes revered as one of humankind's greatest discoveries. Thanks to antibiotics, the lives of billions of people have been saved. The ubiquity of antibiotics in our everyday lives has resulted in complacency when it comes to their use. This has resulted in their overuse and accelerated the evolution of bacteria in their quest to survive these antibiotic attacks. An unprecedented number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria have arisen and we are seeing the fall out now.

### The Ubiquity Of Antibiotics In Our Everyday Lives Has Resulted In Complacency

Individuals are getting infected with bacteria that cannot be treated with our typical arsenal of antibiotics. Doctors have resorted to treating antibiotics with incredibly aggressive antibiotics and combinations of them, to which bacteria will inevitably develop a resistance. Adolescents, seniors, and immunocompromised people are especially at risk because their natural immune response cannot fight back (WHO, 2015).

As a world, we have the opportunity to fight back now before we reach the point of no return. With the introduction of the world's first Antibiotic Awareness Week, we set into motion a global education program that will salvage these significant resources to protect future generations from serious threats. Led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Health Assembly brought together the world's preeminent scientists to identify the factors that have caused this predicament, and what can be done (WHO, 2015).

### As A World, We Have The Opportunity To Fight Back Now Before We Reach The Point Of No Return.

Throughout this week, **InfectionControl.tips** will provide a guideline to the steps that the World Health Assembly has set forth as the priorities for combatting antimicrobial resistance.

## **The goal of Global Antibiotic Awareness Week will be to:**

- 1) Improve global understanding of antibiotic resistance
- 2) Promote advancements in research and surveillance to improve our understanding of antimicrobial resistance
- 3) Decrease the use of antibiotics by decreasing infections
- 4) Promote the responsible use antibiotics only when required
- 5) Create an understanding of the true dangers of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms, and provide evidence for the need of countries to invest into development of new medication, vaccines, and other advances to combat this pandemic situation.

## **Additional Resources:**

World Antibiotic Awareness Week (2015)

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2015/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/en/>

World Health Organization (2015) Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/193736/1/9789241509763\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/193736/1/9789241509763_eng.pdf)

European Antibiotic Awareness Day (2015)

<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/EAAD/Pages/Home.aspx>

Center for Disease Control (2015)

<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week/overview.html>

Antibiotic Awareness (2015)

<http://antibioticawareness.ca/>