

Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

Volume 29, Issue 5

Phone: 717-849-2299 Fax: 717-852-9397

November 2013

www.yorkcity.org

Get Smart About Antibiotics Week, November 18 - 24, 2013

Here in the U.S., Get Smart About Antibiotics Week marks the fourth year of an international collaboration coinciding with European Antibiotic Awareness Day, Australia's Antibiotic Awareness Week, and Canada's Antibiotic Awareness Week.

Why are antibiotics so important and why should we be concerned about antibiotic resistance?

- Antibiotics are the most important tools we have to combat life-threatening microbial (bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic) diseases.
- Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health threats.
- Antibiotic overuse increases the development of drug-resistance germs.
- Patients, healthcare providers, hospital administrators, and policy makers must work together to employ effective strategies for improving antibiotic use – ultimately improving medical care and saving lives.

Antibiotics are used throughout the world and antibiotic resistance is a worldwide problem. MDR-TB – multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis. MRSA – methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. CRE – carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae. VRE –

vancomycin-resistant enterococci. Chloroquine-resistant malaria. Antiviral-resistant influenza A strains. These are just some names of troublesome antibiotic-resistant microbes in the news these days, and the number just keeps growing. These “super bug” infections lead to hospitalizations, misery, deaths, and significant economic costs each year in rich and poor, developed and under-developed nations around the world.

What are some of the strategies we need to use to turn this problem around? No single strategy can solve the issue of antibiotic resistance; a multi-pronged approach is required. Some examples of workable strategies include:

1. Develop and follow science-based protocols for antibiotic use in hospital, nursing home, and out-patient settings.
2. Lower patient expectations for antibiotics for inappropriate infections.
3. Support research and development of new antibiotics and diagnostic tests.
4. Improve surveillance (tracking) of antibiotic-resistant microbial strains, isolate and contain to prevent spread.
5. Develop vaccines to prevent infections in the first place.

For more information about Get Smart About Antibiotics Week in the U.S., check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/index.html>.

Reportable Conditions – 2013 City of York, Pa		
Reported Cases	Oct.	Total
Animal Bites	7	91
Campylobacter Enteritis	1	3
Chlamydia	62	464
Cryptosporidiosis	0	2
Gonorrhea	29	202
Hepatitis A	0	1
Hepatitis B	1	3
Hepatitis C	9	76
Histoplasmosis	0	1
HIV Infection	2	19
Influenza, Type A	0	33
Influenza, Type B	0	17
Influenza, Not Specified	0	1
Invasive Group A Beta-Strep Disease	1	2
Lead Poisoning	0	16
Lyme Disease	0	6
Meningitis – Aseptic	0	1
Meningitis – Bacterial	0	1
Meningitis – Fungal	0	1
Rabies (Animal)	1	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	0	42
Salmonellosis	0	3
Total Case Reports	113	986

About The York County Special Needs Registry (Formerly ECRIN):

The York County Special Needs Registry is a voluntary, community outreach service to assist elected officials and emergency responders in municipalities across York County to obtain important information on residents with special needs living in their communities.

The Special Needs Registry also assists residents by ensuring that all emergency response units (fire, police, EMA, etc.) have access to the same information about each person - thus decreasing confusion during an emergency situation. This standardized information decreases safety risks to both responders and residents in emergency situations.

In the City of York, the Special Needs Registry is maintained by the Emergency Management Authority (EMA) and is used to assist persons residing in the City who have special needs or no reliable source of assistance in the event of an emergency. Beyond evacuation purposes, the information it provides is helpful in any emergency situation (fire, chemical spill, police incident, etc.).

Registration is entirely voluntary. To participate in the Special Needs Registry, a paper form must be completed and returned to your local municipality or York County Human Services at 100 West Market Street, York, PA 17401. York City Residents should send their completed registration to Mike Shanabrook, York City EMA at 43 South Duke Street, York, PA 17401. The Special Needs Registry form can be found at:
<http://yorkcountypa.gov/health-human-services/human-services-division/programs/york-county-special-needs-registry-1.html>

**YORK CITY BUREAU OF HEALTH
227 W. MARKET ST.
YORK, PA 17401**

Mayor

C. Kim Bracey

Director of Economic & Community Development

Shilvosky Buffaloe (acting)

Deputy Director

Community Development - Health

Barbara Kovacs, MPA

Board of Health

Charles Reilly, MD, Chairman

Carmen Bones

JoAnn Henderson

Rita Van Wyk, MD

Sharon Smith, RN

Newsletter Editors

David L. Hawk, MD, MPH

Barbara H. Kovacs, MPA