

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
November 13, 2017

For More Information, Contact:
Faye Salzer
Division of Disease Control
Phone: 701.328.2378
E-mail: fsalzer@nd.gov

Have a Positive Impact on Reducing Antibiotic Resistance

BISMARCK, N.D. – During National Antibiotic Awareness Week, November 13-19, 2017, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) asks providers and their patients to work together in the effort to fight the spread of antibiotic resistance.

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that preventing infections and improving antibiotic prescribing could save 37,000 lives from drug-resistant infections over the course of five years,” said Faye Salzer, healthcare-associated infections coordinator with the NDDoH. “We can win this fight if we all work together to combat antibiotic resistance.”

The NDDoH is asking patients to do the following:

- Ask your provider if there are other things you can do to feel better instead of taking antibiotics. Antibiotics do not cure viral infections such as colds, the flu, most sore throats, coughs, bronchitis (“chest colds”), or sinus and ear infections.
- Don’t insist that your provider give you antibiotics when they don’t think you need them.
- If you are prescribed antibiotics, use them as directed. Do not skip a dose or stop taking them, unless directed to do so by your provider.
- Only use antibiotics that are prescribed to you. Do not share leftover antibiotics with others.
- Educate yourself about antibiotic resistance.

In addition, several health care providers and organizations have partnered to provide education to their members on how to prevent the misuse of antibiotics and reduce antibiotic resistance. These partners include the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians, North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Physicians, North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as health insurance plans such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and the Sanford Health Plan.

The NDDoH is asking the public to help spread the word about antibiotic resistance. Follow the NDDoH, Division of Disease Control, Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NDDiseaseControl and share posts with family and friends. The NDDoH will be sharing prevention tips, podcasts, and information throughout the week.

For more information, contact Faye Salzer, NDDoH, at 701.328.2378 or visit www.ndhealth.gov/disease/hai.

- end -