

Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work
New Pediatric Guidelines for Prescribing Antibiotics Issued

To: Vermont Healthcare Providers and Pharmacists
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– Please Distribute as Appropriate –

November 18-24, 2013 is Get Smart About Antibiotics Week. The Health Department, in alliance with the Vermont chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Physicians, strongly encourages Vermont's health care professionals and pharmacists to work together to ensure that patients get the right antibiotics, at the right dose, and for the right duration.

Antimicrobial resistance among respiratory pathogens has become a common clinical problem, and the association of resistance with the use of antimicrobial drugs is well documented in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

This week the American Academy of Pediatrics issued updated guidelines on prescribing antibiotics for pediatric infections. *Principles of Judicious Antibiotic Prescribing for Pediatric Upper Respiratory Tract Infections* are available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/11/12/peds.2013-3260>. These new guidelines replace the original guidelines published in 1998.

The Institute of Medicine has identified antibiotic resistance as one of the key threats to health in the U.S., and has listed decreasing the inappropriate use of antimicrobials as a primary solution to address this threat. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recently published its first report on the current antibiotic resistance threat to the U.S. The report estimates that each year in the U.S., at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria resistant to antibiotics, and at least 23,000 people die as a result. For this reason, antibiotic resistance is among CDC's top concerns.

Public health and the healthcare delivery system are important partners in these efforts, and the Health Department is working to educate prescribers, pharmacists, and all Vermonters about the importance of appropriate antibiotic use. **For more information** contact the Health Department at (802) 863-7240 or visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/specific-groups/hcp/index.html>