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NEWSLETTER
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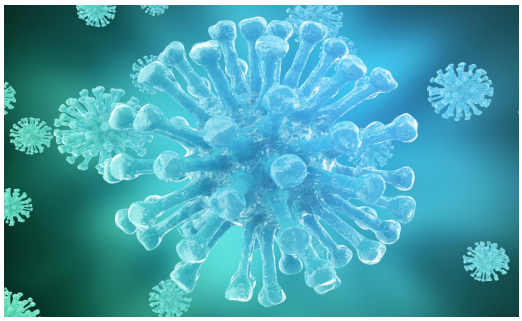
www.phoenixgrp.co.za
info@phoenixgrp.co.za

WORLD ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS WEEK 2020

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 18 to 24 November 2020 aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.



WHAT IS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites resist the effects of medications, making common infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. Antimicrobials are agents that are critical tools for fighting diseases in humans, animals and plants and include antibiotic, antiviral, antifungal and antiprotozoal medicines. Multiple factors – including overuse of medicines in humans, livestock, and agriculture, as well as poor access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene – have accelerated the threat of antimicrobial resistance worldwide.

Following a stakeholder's consultation meeting in May 2020 organised by the Tripartite Organisations (the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and WHO) the scope of WAAW was expanded, changing its focus from "antibiotics" to the more encompassing and inclusive term "antimicrobials". Expanding the scope of the campaign to all antimicrobials will facilitate a more inclusive global response to antimicrobial resistance and support a multisectoral One Health Approach with increased stakeholder engagement. The Tripartite Executive Committee has decided to fix WAAW dates to 18 to 24 November every year starting from 2020. The slogan for 2020 will be "Antimicrobials: handle with care" applicable to all sectors. The theme for the human health sector for WAAW 2020 is "United to preserve antimicrobials".

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IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ANTIBIOTICS

- Antibiotics are ineffective against viruses.
- A doctor prescribes antibiotics for the treatment of a bacterial infection. It is not effective against viruses.
- Know whether an infection is bacterial or viral helps to effectively treat it.
- Viruses cause most upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs), such as the common cold and flu. Antibiotics do not work against these viruses.
- If people overuse antibiotics or use them incorrectly, the bacteria might become resistant. This means that the antibiotic becomes less effective against that type of bacterium, as the bacterium has been able to improve its defenses.
- A doctor can prescribe a broad-spectrum antibiotic to treat a wide range of infections. A narrow-spectrum antibiotic is only effective against a few types of bacteria.
- Some antibiotics attack aerobic bacteria, while others work against anaerobic bacteria. Aerobic bacteria need oxygen and anaerobic bacteria do not.
- In some cases, a healthcare professional may provide antibiotics to prevent rather than treat an infection, as might be the case before surgery.

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THANK YOU

SOURCE

https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/10278

https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/11/18/default-calendar/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week-2020

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010 443 9734