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World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2023

Antimicrobial Resistance Policy Section, Office of Health Protection,  
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

**World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW)** runs annually from 18 to 24 November under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO) and maintains a permanent slogan (Antimicrobials: Handle with Care) and yearly themes. This year’s WAAW theme is Preventing antimicrobial resistance together. The theme is an acknowledgment of the necessity for a One Health approach to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) most successfully.[[1]](#footnote-2)

This year we urge you to remember:

* AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat.
* Antimicrobial resistance is a significant global problem. It is happening now and affects everybody, including you, your family and your friends. It also affects our animals and our environment.
* A One Health response to AMR will help save millions of lives, preserve antimicrobials for generations and secure the future from drug-resistant pathogens.
* AMR is happening here and now. It is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security and development today.
* We can all take action in our daily life to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance.  
  For example:
  + follow a medical professional’s instructions when they prescribe antimicrobials for you and do not take antimicrobials prescribed for other people or leftover antimicrobials prescribed for a previous infection;
  + return leftover antimicrobials to your pharmacy for safe disposal;
  + practice good hand hygiene and cough etiquette; and
  + ensure wounds, cuts and grazes are properly dressed and seek medical professional advice when needed.

**To learn more about WAAW 2023, please check the Australian Government’s WAAW webpage.[[2]](#footnote-3)**

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1. For more information, please visit: https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/18/default-calendar/world-amr-awareness-week-2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.amr.gov.au/about-amr/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)