

#AntibioticResistance

WORLD ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK

16-22 NOVEMBER 2015

Dear OIE Delegates and Focal Points,

The first **World Antibiotic Awareness Week** will take place this year, from **16 to 22 November 2015**.

The aim of this week is to increase awareness of the health risks linked to antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices in this area to limit the emergence and spread of resistant bacteria.

The OIE is taking an active part in this event and plans to promote it with new communication tools especially developed for the occasion. Some of these tools will be used in conjunction with the World Health Organization's (WHO's) '[Handle Antibiotics with Care](#)' campaign, to ensure synergy in our communications on this high-priority issue for animal and human health.

Our communications are targeted at increasing awareness of the OIE's intergovernmental standards on antibiotic resistance and promoting their implementation throughout the world.

This message provides the OIE's main points to communicate on antibiotic resistance and alerts you to the tools which are being developed for this purpose.

1 The fight against antibiotic resistance: the OIE's key messages

- **Antibiotics** are essential to protect **human health and animal health** as well as **animal welfare**.
- **Excessive or inappropriate use** can lead to the appearance of **bacteria which are resistant to antibiotic treatment**. This phenomenon, called **antibiotic resistance**, puts disease control throughout the world **at grave risk**.
- It is by ensuring the **responsible and careful use** of these vital medical treatments, through the application of the OIE's intergovernmental standards that we can, **collectively**, continue to **protect their effectiveness**, through coordinated action between the public health, animal health and environmental sectors.
- **Veterinarians are part of the solution**: they must therefore be well trained and well supervised by the statutory veterinary bodies.

2 **World Antibiotic Awareness Week** is an important opportunity to promote awareness among our different audiences of the threat posed by antibiotic resistance and to inform them about recent action taken by the OIE:

- A complete update of the **standards** for terrestrial and aquatic animals on antibiotic resistance (*finalised in May 2015*).
- A revised [List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance](#) (*May 2015*).
- A significant contribution from the OIE to the development of the veterinary component of the **WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance**.
- An [OIE Resolution adopted in May 2015](#): to combat antibiotic resistance and promote the careful use of antimicrobial agents in animals.
- Development under way of a **world database on the use of antimicrobials in animal production**, linked to the World Animal Health Information System, WAHIS.

We would like to alert you to the fact that, during the week, the OIE will be sending out several **press releases**, as well as **videos**.

3 Existing **communication tools** will be highlighted and, in some cases, updated:

- The [OIE web portal on antimicrobial resistance](#) will be completely reorganised and updated.

New tools will be developed for the occasion. Some tools will mirror those developed by WHO but will be adapted to animal health problems.

- Three **new posters: 'Fighting antibiotic resistance: What can you do?'** will be adapted and made available to different audiences:
 - National Authorities
 - Veterinarians
 - Animal owners and producers.
- A new **infographic** presenting the key points to remember for the responsible and careful use of antibiotics.

To complement this, a tripartite poster (WHO–OIE–FAO) on the agricultural sector will be distributed by WHO.

At the beginning of November you will receive all the information enabling you to use the various tools developed by the OIE so that you can share them with your regional websites and distribute them throughout your networks

Best regards,

Dr. Vallat
OIE Director General