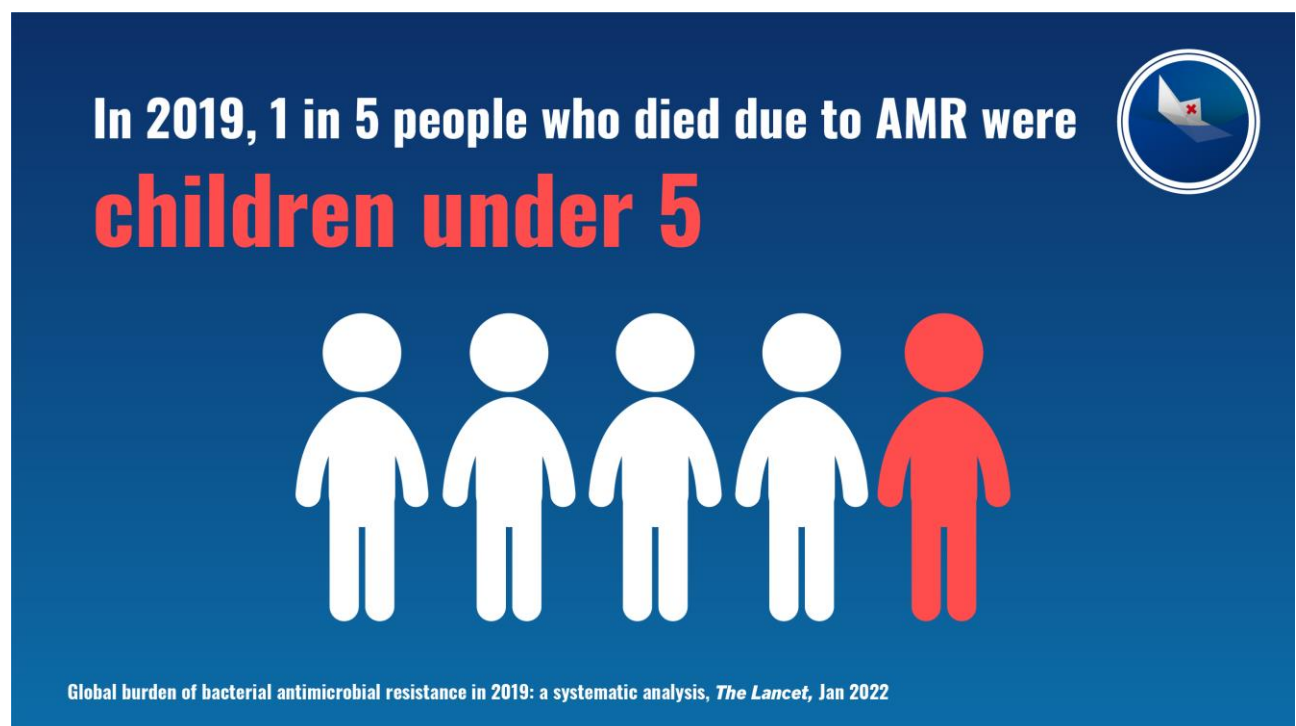


15th October 2024

Dear Head Teacher / Lecturer / Educator,

This year celebrates 10 years of the [Antibiotic Guardian](#) campaign which asks members of the public to make a pledge to [#keepantibioticsworking](#). We are writing to you once again to ask for your help, as **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) continues to be one of the biggest global threats facing us today.**

In 2019, 1.27 million deaths were attributed to AMR or drug-resistant infections. This figure is predicted to reach more than 39 million by 2050 if we don't act now!



The discovery of antibiotics has been crucial to modern medicine, however persistently overusing and misusing antibiotics in humans, animals, plants, and the environment, has given rise to the emergence of drug resistant bacteria.

Please help us protect these life-saving medicines and support the Antibiotic Guardian campaign to Keep Antibiotics Working Globally.

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board would like to invite your school / university to participate in a competition to raise awareness of drug-resistant infections and how to take action to use antibiotics responsibly and prevent the spread of infections.



Who can participate?

Anyone between the age of 5-25 years of age.

Categories

School years 1-4: Design a poster.

School years 5-8: Create a "Horrible Histories" story to explain how drug-resistant infections can occur, how they might spread and what can happen as a result.

School years 9-13 / University: create a "Horrible Histories" story or create a TikTok video.

The aim of this competition is to explain how drug-resistant infections can occur, how they might spread and what can happen as a result. Posters / stories / Videos should deliver messages to use antibiotics responsibly and #keepantibioticsworking.

How do I participate?

- Design your poster, create you Horrible Histories story or TikTok video.
- Send your poster to Nilanka Sivapalan, Pharmacy Department, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, HP21 8AL or email bht.waaw@nhs.net
- Share your TikTok video with @BHTAntibioticGuardians
- **Deadline for submission for the competition is Friday 15th November 2024.**
- Only one submission per student for the poster, however groups can work together to create the TikTok video.
- Make sure your name, age and school / university are clearly written on your entry.

Further information at: [Community offers Stay Well](https://staywell-bob.nhs.uk/community-offers) (staywell-bob.nhs.uk/community-offers)

Why participate?

- Each winning participant will have their poster displayed in hospitals / waiting areas and may be used for future campaigns. The Horrible Histories story and TikTok video will be used in the coming year to raise awareness within our communities of this issue.
- There will be a first and second place winner selected for each category:
 - **Best Poster**
 - **Best Horrible History story**
 - **Best TikTok Video**

What should be included?

The entry of the poster can be designed using whatever media the child wishes.


It should incorporate some or all the key messages:

- Regular hand-washing prevents infection
- Take up vaccinations for yourselves and your pets to prevent infection
- Get regular dental check-ups and brush your teeth regularly to prevent infections
- Using a tissue when coughing and sneezing can prevent sharing your infection – Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!
- Only use antibiotics when prescribed.
- Never demand antibiotics if your health professional says you don't need them.
- Always follow the advice given when using antibiotics.
- Never share or use leftover antibiotics.
- Not sharing antibiotics with animals

Hints and tips:

- Keep it simple.
- Make it eye catching.
- Make sure that the messages are clear and concise.

What information is there to help?

- The [Junior and Family Antibiotic Guardian](#) website as part of the wider Antibiotic Guardian campaign.
- [e-Bug](#) educational resource which also has lesson plans is a free resource. 
- The [World Health Organisation](#) has extensive information on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Why does it matter for schools and universities?

This is a fantastic opportunity to communicate simple, but important messages to children, their families and their communities. **Bugs know no boundaries!** Please take part and contribute to the success of the campaign!

During World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (18th – 24th November 2024) please encourage everyone to share the message by becoming Antibiotic Guardians.
Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,



Claire Brandish,
Lead Antimicrobial
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Buckinghamshire
Healthcare NHS Trust



Lydia Rylance-Knight
Head of Infection Prevention
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Laurie Powell
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Imogen Schofield
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