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# **Communicable Diseases Intelligence**

## **World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2023**

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

# Communicable Diseases Intelligence

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## Communicable Diseases Network Australia

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<http://www.health.gov.au/cdna>



Communicable Diseases Intelligence (CDI) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the Office of Health Protection, Department of Health and Aged Care. The journal aims to disseminate information on the epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases of relevance to Australia.

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## Notice to readers

# 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.<sup>i</sup>

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.<sup>ii</sup>**

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i For more information, please visit: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/18/default-calendar/world-amr-awareness-week-2023>.

ii <https://www.amr.gov.au/about-amr/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week>.