



Public Health
England



Department
of Health



To: Head of Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine
National School of Healthcare Science
HEE Directors of Education and Quality; LETB Directors

Cc. Medical Schools Council
Pharmacy Schools Council
Dental Schools Council
Council of Deans of Health
Health and Care Professions Council
General Medical Council
General Pharmaceutical Council
Nursing and Midwifery Council
General Dental Council
Presidents of Health Students Associations

PHE Gateway Number: 2016-387
NHS England Gateway Number: 06066

25 October 2016

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to reducing antimicrobial resistance. As a lead educator of future prescribers and healthcare professionals, your contribution to raising awareness about prudent antibiotic use is crucial.

Please sign up to become an [Antibiotic Guardian](#) and [register your University's](#) activities to support World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) (14-20 November 2016) and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) (18 November 2016).

As you will no doubt be aware, one of the greatest threats we face globally is that resistance to existing antibiotics is increasing. Our UK Independent Review on AMR, led by Lord Jim O'Neill and published in May highlighted that unless we act to tackle this issue now, by 2050 there could be up to 10 million deaths and an economic cost of £66 trillion¹.

Last year a number of you kindly completed the gap analysis survey led by Health Education England on embedding national antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competences into curricula. We are pleased to let you know that the [report is now published](#) including recommendations for Health Education England, universities and professional bodies. The executive report is attached.

We recommend that antimicrobial resistance and stewardship is included in undergraduate and postgraduate curricula, and CPD courses alongside infection prevention and control which is already well embedded within curricula.

¹ Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. www.amr-review.org/Publications

HEE has also collated a fact sheet of available education and training resources that support the antimicrobial stewardship competencies (attached). There are also a range of free materials [available online](#)² for promoting antibiotic awareness messages to students.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to promote the importance of appropriate use of antibiotics. We encourage you, your academic colleagues and your students to use EAAD, WAAW and Antibiotic Guardian to help improve awareness and knowledge of antimicrobial resistance among animal and human healthcare students.

Join the movement to tackle antimicrobial resistance and take action by:

- sharing this letter with colleagues and encourage them to include antimicrobial resistance awareness as part of their lectures during WAAW
- encouraging students to [learn more about and raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance](#) with peers during World Antibiotics Awareness Week and [become Antibiotic Guardian Champions](#); with the opportunity to earn a digital badge that can be added to their LinkedIn accounts on completion of a number of tasks including a short e-learning AMR module developed by Health Education England .
- using your institution's social media (Facebook, Twitter) channels to engage with the antibiotic awareness campaign before and during WAAW and throughout the winter season using **#AntibioticGuardian**.

By taking these simple steps you will already be helping to contribute to our actions to preserve antibiotics for the future.

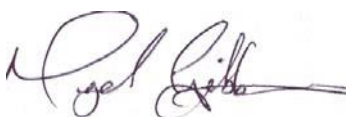
Thank you in advance for your support in helping to promote this important initiative.

If you have any queries, please contact the WAAW and Antibiotic Guardian chair, Dr Diane Ashiru-Oredope at diane.ashiru-oredope@phe.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,



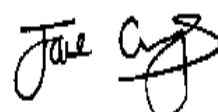
**Professor Dame
Sally C Davies**
Chief Medical Officer
England



Nigel Gibbens
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Dr Keith Ridge Chief
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Jane Cummings
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Sara Hurley
Chief Dental
Officer England



Ian Cumming
Chief Executive
Health Education
England



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive
Public Health England

² Antibiotic Awareness Resources: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/european-antibiotic-awareness-day-resources>