

Iowa Gets Smart Know When Antibiotics Work

Overview

Antibiotic resistance is rapidly becoming a serious public health concern. The number of bacteria resistant to antibiotics has been steadily increasing, largely due to the repeated and improper use of antibiotics. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children are particularly vulnerable; given the fact they have the highest rates of antibiotic use and have the highest rate of infections caused by antibiotic resistant pathogens. To help better educate parents on the proper use of antibiotics, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) is promoting “Iowa Gets Smart-Know When Antibiotics Work”.

School nurses play a very important role in the health of school children and can be a major source of health education for parents. Therefore, IDPH has asked for your assistance with our educational campaign by delivering the curriculum to parents. The campaign will target **parents** of school-aged children 14 and younger, with the intent of improving their knowledge on appropriate antibiotic use. The “Iowa Gets Smart-Know When Antibiotics Work” curriculum targets parents and can be presented to parents to increase their awareness that antibiotics are ineffective in the treatment of most ear infections, colds, influenza and other viral illnesses.

The documents contained within this notebook are intended to provide additional resources and background information.

