Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

GET SMART – KNOW WHEN ANTIBIOTICS WORK WEEK
November 16-22, 2015

WHEREAS, antibiotics are a powerful and important defense against bacterial infectious diseases, but bacterial strains are emerging that are increasingly resistant to available antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic-resistant infections, a problem nationally and globally, plague more than 2 million people each year in the United States, and 23,000 of these infections are fatal; and

WHEREAS, resistance to antibiotics increases the length and complexity of medical treatment and escalates the cost of health care by an estimated $30 billion annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the rise in antibiotic resistance is exacerbated by overuse and misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals and poor infectious disease prevention and management; and

WHEREAS, increasing antimicrobial stewardship is critical to slowing the rate of antibiotic resistance; and

WHEREAS, it is important to protect people and animals by preserving the strength of antibiotics and maintaining the effectiveness of these valuable drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, academic institutions, physicians, health plans, medical centers and public health organizations, is working with health providers, public health professionals, farmers, parents, students, and children to increase awareness about antibiotic stewardship.

THEREFORE, in an effort to protect all Pennsylvanians, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim NOVEMBER 16 – 22, 2015, as GET SMART – KNOW WHEN ANTIBIOTICS WORK WEEK and encourage all citizens to educate themselves, their families, and their communities about best practices regarding the use of antibiotics.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-sixth day of October in the Year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and fortieth.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE GOVERNOR

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor