

The global antibiotic resistance crisis

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Overuse of [antibiotics](#) in animal feed is making it harder for doctors to treat life-threatening [infections](#) in young children, [a report](#) from us pediatricians warns. “They want to be better by their

trip they’re about to take for thanksgiving or Christmas”, [said](#) Dr. Christie Alexander, Family Physician and Professor at FSU College of Medicine. The [report](#), published Monday in *Pediatrics*, recommends limiting the use of antibiotics on farms. If our antibiotics lose effectiveness, though, that will be exactly what we’re facing. For now, the country is yet to adopt any serious *infection* prevention and control measures and is not known to have embarked on any surveillance for [antibiotic resistance](#).

[The CDC](#) identifies the most important action needed to slow the development and spread of antibiotic-resistant *infections* is to change the way antibiotics are used. Many others die from conditions that were complicated by an antibiotic-resistant *infection*.

It’s natural for bacteria to become resistant to the drugs used for treatment, but the

misuse and overuse of the drugs is speeding up the resistance to, as Dr. Chan states, “dangerously high levels”.

As more and more bacteria become resistant to more and more antibiotics, fighting superbugs will become a global health crisis. And in the supermarket, brands of meat and poultry raised without antibiotics are becoming more widespread.

Each year, at least two million people are infected with antibiotic resistant bacteria in the USA according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

These findings point to an urgent need for improving public understanding on antibiotic resistance, says WHO’s special representative, Keiji Fukuda.

“Antibiotics only work on bacteria, they won’t help to treat a virus, which is the main cause of cold and flu”, Mr Monk said. The research results are about what you’d expect – people have heard of antibacterial resistance but don’t know what it is, they think you can treat colds and flus with antibiotics, and they stop taking their antibiotics as soon as they feel better instead of finishing their treatment.

Consultant Microbiologist Dr Rob Cunney said: “I think it is very much a wakeup call because we know that globally antibiotic resistance one of the biggest threats to human health”.

The **survey** showed for instance that five percent of Chinese respondents who had taken antibiotics in the past six months had purchased them on the Internet, while the same percentage in Nigeria had bought them from a stall or hawker. And when taking antibiotics, the organization further advises that people should always take the full prescription, never using left-over antibiotics and never sharing antibiotics with others.

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