

FLORIDA GET SMART PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sponsors the nationwide "Get Smart" program to promote the judicious use of antibiotics in an effort to slow the increase of antibiotic resistant infections.

The Department of Health is introducing this campaign for the first time in Florida middle and high schools. The purpose is to promote the judicious use of antibiotics by middle and high school staff, students, and their families. Schools were selected to participate in the program based on survey participation. Forty-six school districts are represented; however, participation is voluntary.

The goals of the program are:

1. To promote appropriate use of antibiotics among the school community.
2. To increase parental knowledge of appropriate antibiotic use in efforts to decrease the demand for antibiotics for viral upper respiratory infections.
3. To increase adherence to prescribed antibiotics.

FLORIDA GET SMART PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

KAP SURVEY

In order to develop a more effective campaign, the Department of Health conducted a survey of Florida school nurses. The survey asked about perceptions of the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and beliefs held by parents, teachers, school staff, and students regarding antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance. The survey is still available and can be accessed online at <http://survey.doh.state.fl.us/survey/entry.jsp?id=1178657016003>

TRAINING FOR NURSES ON ANTIBIOTIC USE AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The program will provide educational materials and complementary training to school nurses on scientific facts and recommendations for proper antibiotic use. School nurses will receive school educational material, guidelines, and access to a website with information promoting the judicious use of antibiotics and the prevention of antibiotic resistance. The training will be provided during the last week of August and the first week of September 2007 through a series of conference calls, which will be repeated to cover various schedules. CEUs will also be available.

IMPLEMENTATION

The program will be implemented in approximately 300 public, combination middle and high schools from September to November 2007, concurrent with the first period of the influenza season. Several activities will be recommended as part of the implementation process. The basic implementation is to disseminate awareness messages from health professionals to members of the school community and have educational material available in the health room. All information for advising purposes will be provided to the school nurses.



Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Other implementation activities will be suggested. Once during the implementation process, school nurses will be asked to complete a very brief, web-based report to evaluate the school's progress and provide feedback.

The basic set of printed materials includes:

- Q & A Fact Sheet - "Runny Nose"
- Brochure and Poster - "Snort. Sniffle. Sneeze. No antibiotics please",
- Brochure - "Cold or Flu. Antibiotics don't work for you"
- Poster - "Warning: antibiotics don't work for viruses like cold and the flu".

A web site with information for parents and students will be available.

For further information please contact

Sonia Clavijo McNelis, M.D., M.P.H. Bureau of Epidemiology, Antimicrobial Resistance Program Coordinator at Sonia_Clavijo-McNelis@doh.state.fl.us

Information on the National Campaign can be found at www.dcd.gov/getsmart/

