

## FLORIDA SCHOOLS GET SMART PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION



### **Overview**

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.

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 Schools Get Smart program, strategy for implementation***

A pilot program will be implemented in approximately 400 public, combination middle and high schools from September to November 2007, concurrent with the beginning of the influenza season. The basic implementation is to disseminate awareness messages to members of the school community (students, parents, teachers, and school staff) and have educational material available in the health room. All information for advising purposes is provided to the school nurses. Once during the implementation process, school nurses will complete a brief web-based report to evaluate the school's progress and provide feedback.

### ***One-on-one model for education of students and their parents***

The patient-provider interaction is the basic frame to implement the program. It assumes that communication is the most basic and powerful tool and that school nurses have achieved an excellent and unique level of credibility and trust in which the relationship with parents and students has been crafted.

The strategy includes:

- a. Participate in the training to obtain information about the program, antibiotic use and resistance and guidance for implementation. The training includes two sections-Get Smart I and II. Training presentations are available in our website at [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/FGS/FL\\_GetSmart.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/FGS/FL_GetSmart.html)
- b. Display informational posters and make brochures and fact sheets available at the health room or other strategic place where students, parents and school staff can find them.
- c. Distribute the postcard "virus/bacteria"
- d. Basic strategy: Communicate with students, parents and school staff.

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- Communicate with the ill students and school staff that require services at the health room, especially to those who have febrile and respiratory symptoms as well as those who receive antibiotics.
  - Communicate with parents of sick students, and when administration of antibiotics is requested.
  - Provide information on proper use of antibiotics and recommendations to manage non-bacterial respiratory infections.
  - Encourage parents to take children to the doctor and talk about antibiotics.
- e. Provide feedback or follow up on written authorizations to administer antibiotics to students at schools. School nurses should give parents feedback on completeness of the information required in the authorization. Also, suggest to parents and guardians to review and copy the information from prescription bottle labels and from the patient-prescription-information sheet provided by pharmacies when dispensing antibiotics. Encourage students to read the information and ask questions.
- f. Create different strategies or activities based on time availability, student preferences and school and teacher support.
- g. Record in a log the number of students, parents and other school staff to whom you provide information. Record the method used to distribute the educational material.
- h. Request information regarding other strategies or curriculums to implement at school.

The basic set of printed materials includes Q & A fact sheets, brochures, posters, flyers and postcards. A web site with information for school nurses, parents and students is available at [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/FGS/FL\\_GetSmart.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/FGS/FL_GetSmart.html)

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