KNOCKING OUT AMR

Common Misconceptions

The AMR crisis is only about antibiotics.

The AMR crisis is often centred around antibiotics, but AMR refers to resistance to antibiotics, antifungals, antiparasitics and antivirals.

Viral infections can be treated with antibiotics.

Viral infections, such as the flu or a cold, cannot be treated with antibiotics. Taking antibiotics while suffering from a viral infection could contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when the **body** becomes resistant to antibiotics.

This is incorrect. A **microbe** develops resistance to antimicrobials and a person can then be **infected** by an antimicrobial resistant microbe.

There is nothing that individual members of the public can do to help the AMR crisis.

Members of the public, hospitals, scientists, farmers and governments (the list could go on) all have a part to play in helping to tackle the AMR crisis. Members of the public can help by only taking antimicrobials prescribed to them, always finishing the prescribed course of antimicrobials as directed, washing their hands regularly and getting vaccinated.

Antimicrobial resistance will only affect 'at risk' people.

If left to rise at the rate that it is now, AMR will affect everyone. We may run out of ways to treat diseases caused by microbes, meaning common things such as routine surgeries, childbirth or hospital visits will become more dangerous.

AMR spreads like an infectious disease.

While antimicrobial resistant infections do spread in the same way as any other infection, the genes coding for resistance can be shared between populations of microbes, between species, and can even develop in a single, isolated population of microbes.

Only people who take antibiotics regularly will be affected by the AMR crisis.

The AMR crisis will affect everyone. While antimicrobial resistant infections can evolve in people who regularly take them, this is **not the only way AMR develops**. AMR can develop and be shared between people, animals, the environment, food chain and between different microbial species and strains. Even people who don't take antimicrobials are exposed to them in everyday life and could be infected by an antimicrobial resistant microbe.

MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY