



# Kent Health Department

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## FACT SHEET

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[www.kentpublichealth.org](http://www.kentpublichealth.org)

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Antibiotic Resistance

■ In 2015, 17% of adults, increasing to 36% of those with incomes less than \$25,000 described their health as fair or poor. Source: [Portage County Community Health Assessment](#)

#### Preventing the Spread of Resistant Germs

More than 23,000 Americans die each year from infections caused by germs resistant to antibiotics. While antibiotic resistance threats vary nationwide, it has been found in every state. The unusual resistance germs, which are resistant to all or most antibiotics tested, and are uncommon or carry special resistance genes, are constantly developing and spreading. Lab tests uncovered unusual resistance more than 200 times in 2017. Early and aggressive action—when even a single case is found—can keep germs with unusual resistance from spreading in health care facilities and causing hard-to-treat or even untreatable infections. Health departments can lead the Containment Strategy and act swiftly with health care facilities and CDC at the first sign of unusual resistance.

Want to learn more? Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

**221**  
New testing in 2017 uncovered 221 instances of unusual resistance germs in bacteria.

**1 in 10**  
11% of tests in people with no symptoms, found a resistant germ that spreads easily.

**200**  
Lab tests uncovered unusual resistance more than 200 times in 2017.



### PROBLEM

#### Antibiotic-Resistant Germs Multiply Quickly

- Germs constantly develop resistance against new and older antibiotics.
- Antibiotic-resistant germs can cause difficult-to-treat or untreatable infections.
- Once antibiotic resistance spreads, it is harder to control and some types are already widespread.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

#### Everyone Can:

- Talk to a healthcare provider about preventing infections; take good care of chronic conditions; never share or use left-over antibiotics; get recommended vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>
- Practice good hygiene, such as keeping hands clean with handwashing and caring for cuts until healed.

#### 6 SMART FACTS ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC USE

1. Antibiotics are **life-saving drugs**.
2. Antibiotics only treat bacterial infections.
3. Some ear infections do not require antibiotic treatment.
4. Most sore throats do not require antibiotic treatment.
5. Green colored mucus is not a sign that an antibiotic treatment is needed.
6. There are potential health related risks and side effects when taking any prescription drug.

Talk to your health care provider about when and how to safely use antibiotics.

For more information visit: [www.cdc.gov/getsmart](http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart)

#### When should you clean your hands?

Keeping your hands clean is the number one way to prevent the spread of infection.

#### Clean your hands often:

- Before eating.
- Before, during, and after preparing food.
- After using the bathroom.
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- After taking out the garbage.
- After petting animals.
- After visiting or caring for someone who is sick.
- Whenever your hands look or feel dirty.



Learn more: [apic.org/infectionpreventionandyou](http://apic.org/infectionpreventionandyou).

Resource:  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1-800-CDC-INFO  
(232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232- 6348  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)