2026 Antibiotics Awareness Week

Prevention is Antimicrobial Stewardship:

Leveraging Vaccines to Reduce Downstream Antibiotic Use and Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

Overview of Program

Join the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antibiotic Resistance (HAI/AR) Section for a set of webinars celebrating U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week. This year we explore how preventing infections through vaccination reduces antibiotic use and subsequent antibiotic resistance, alongside a timely focus on measles updates and actionable messaging strategies to strengthen MMR and other vaccine uptake.

Program Schedule and Learning Objectives

November 18, 2026: Vaccines as Antimicrobial Stewardship

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. CST

Learning Objectives

1. Evaluate the clinical and epidemiological evidence linking vaccine uptake to significant reductions in outpatient and inpatient antibiotic utilization.
2. Differentiate the impact of bacterial versus viral immunization (e.g. pneumococcal conjugate vs. influenza) to mitigate antimicrobial resistance and secondary bacterial infections.
3. Implement interprofessional strategies to embed vaccine assessment and delivery into the hospital, outpatient, and long-term care antimicrobial stewardship initiatives.

November 24, 2026: Measles Resurgence and Vaccine Confidence

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. CST

Learning Objectives

1. Analyze regional and national measles epidemiology, transition dynamics, and clinical criteria for suspect case identification.
2. Review indications, contraindications, and catch-up schedules for MMR vaccination across pediatric, adult, and high-risk populations.
3. Utilize evidence-based communication strategies, including presumptive recommendations and motivational techniques, to address vaccine hesitancy and improve immunization uptake across diverse populations.

Enrollment

Enroll Today!

November 18, 2026: Vaccines as Antimicrobial Stewardship

events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/cd54ba1a-c2e3-4bb8-8de1-6ce4b6d9cd43@dcae8101-c92d-480c-bc43-c6761ccccc5a

November 24, 2026: Measles Resurgence and Vaccine Confidence

events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9144529c-701c-406a-a840-2c6201036b0e@dcae8101-c92d-480c-bc43-c6761ccccc5a

Meet Our Subject Experts



Kellie Wark, MD, MPH

Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Co-Lead

Dr. Wark is an Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases at The University of Kansas Health System (TUKHS) and within the KDHE HAI/AR Section serves as the antimicrobial resistance subject matter expert and co-leads the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. At TUKHS she serves on the antibiotic stewardship committee, co-leads the ambulatory stewardship subcommittee and is chair of the vaccine taskforce.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Section

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