

Harmful bacteria getting stronger

10th December, 2015



A new report warns that people could be in danger from superbugs if they eat rare and undercooked meat. The report is called the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Researchers looked into how antibiotics in food are making bugs stronger. The report said the use of antibiotics in agriculture is making bugs stronger and more resistant to our medicines. The researchers said the huge amount of antibiotics in farming could be dangerous to people's health around the world. They suggested that farmers reduce the amount of antibiotics they give to their animals. The leader of the research, Jim O'Neill, said this was important if we wanted to make sure that our life-saving medicines still work effectively.

The researchers are calling for strict targets to reduce the number of antibiotics given to farm animals. Mr O'Neill said this was necessary because of the huge amount of antibiotics farmers give their animals. He said: "I find it [unbelievable] that in many countries, most of the consumption of antibiotics is in animals, rather than humans. This creates a big risk for everyone." He added that the public could get ill from superbugs if they ate meat that was rare or undercooked. He said: "My advice to consumers is that they have to make sure they cook meat properly. If you are going to choose to cook it as rare as possible you have to be aware of where it's coming from."

Sources: [Telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk) / [Guardian.com](http://www.guardian.com) / [Reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)

Writing

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a vegetarian?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / danger / superbugs / antibiotics / agriculture / medicines / farming / research / targets / necessary / amount / animals / risk / consumers / cook / properly / advice

True / False

- A report says people should avoid eating raw meat. T / F
- The report is about bugs becoming stronger against antibiotics. T / F
- The report said farmers should give their animals more antibiotics. T / F
- The research leader said we need to keep life-saving medicine working. T / F
- Researchers want strict targets on antibiotics given to animals. T / F
- Humans consume more antibiotics than animals across the world. T / F
- The researcher said people don't need to worry about cooking meat. T / F
- The researcher suggested you should know where meat is from. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. warns | a. very big |
| 2. agriculture | b. essential |
| 3. huge | c. drugs |
| 4. amount | d. tough |
| 5. medicines | e. correctly |
| 6. strict | f. cautions |
| 7. necessary | g. quantity |
| 8. rather than | h. informed about |
| 9. properly | i. farming |
| 10. aware | j. instead of |

Discussion – Student A

- What superbugs or viruses do you know about?
- What is the problem of giving animals antibiotics?
- Do you think scientists will always be able to fight bugs?
- What do you think of rare or raw meat?
- Do we need to change what we eat?
- What advice do you have for farmers?
- What will you do from now to avoid the risk of superbugs?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. rare and | a. for strict targets |
| 2. making bugs stronger and | b. of antibiotics |
| 3. dangerous to | c. meat properly |
| 4. reduce the amount | d. more resistant |
| 5. life-saving medicines | e. from superbugs |
| 6. researchers are calling | f. people's health |
| 7. in animals, rather | g. it's coming from |
| 8. the public could get ill | h. still work effectively |
| 9. make sure they cook | i. undercooked meat |
| 10. be aware of where | j. than humans |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you worry about the safety of the food you eat?
- What do you know about antibiotics?
- How safe do you think food in supermarkets is?
- What do you know about superbugs?
- What would happen if antibiotics no longer worked?
- Should we grow more of the food we eat ourselves?
- Should we all become vegetarian?

Spelling

- in danger from ugubressp
- the use of cisatonbtij in agriculture
- the huge umanot
- The leader of the csrareeh
- our life-saving micnsdeie
- still work fefecyetlvi
- rcistt targets
- cerued the number
- in animals, rather than unahsm
- My cveadi to consumers is...
- make sure they cook meat prerpylo
- you have to be aewar of where it's coming from

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. g	5. c
6. d	7. b	8. j	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Flu

You think the flu is the worst thing to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least-worse of these (and why): sore throat, a toothache or a computer virus.

Role B – Sore throat

You think a sore throat is the worst thing to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least-worse of these (and why): flu, a toothache or a computer virus.

Role C – Toothache

You think a toothache is the worst thing to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least-worse of these (and why): sore throat, flu or a computer virus.

Role D – Computer virus

You think a computer virus is the worst thing to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't as bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least-worse of these (and why): sore throat, a toothache or flu.

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst ones to have at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| • Flu | • Stomach bug |
| • Diarrhoea | • Toothache |
| • Cold | • Internet virus |
| • Sore throat | • Backache |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.