

A Complex Web: Everything is Connected

Community & the Environment

Germs, including antibiotic-resistant germs, live and spread within our community and sometimes makes people sick. Human activity can introduce antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant germs into the environment (soil, water), but it remains unclear how spread in the environment impacts human and animal health.



- ◀ Germs spread person to person, even during activities like handshaking, working out, having sex, or going to school.
- ◀ Resistant germs can spread between people and animals, including pets and petting zoos.
- ◀ Antibiotics save lives. However, any time antibiotics are used, the drugs can cause side effects and contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance.



- ◀ People can get infections when traveling internationally from other people, animals, contaminated food or water, or through receiving medical care. People can spread germs when they return.



- ◀ Antibiotics and resistant germs can spread through wildlife and through the environment, including bodies of water, and can make people sick.
- ◀ Waste (poop) from people in hospitals and animals on farms, applying antibiotics as pesticides, and antibiotic manufacturing (commonly occurs outside of the United States) can result in antibiotics and resistant germs in the environment. This contributes to the spread of resistance across the globe.
- ◀ Untreated sewage from septic systems and sewer leaks can contaminate the environment.



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Health and Human Services
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