



Unusual Antibiotic Resistance: Early, Aggressive Action Can Prevent Spread  
Vital Signs – April 2018

- More than 23,000 Americans die each year from infections caused by antibiotic-resistant germs.
- Antibiotic resistance has been found in every state, with new resistance developing constantly.
- CDC’s lab network uncovered 221 instances of germs with unusual antibiotic resistance genes nationwide in 2017.
- Antibiotic-resistant germs can spread like wildfire.
- However, when found rapidly, unusual resistance can be easier to contain because it has yet to spread.
- Health departments can lead the Containment Strategy, and act swiftly with health care facilities and CDC at the first sign of unusual resistance.
- Finding and responding to unusual resistance early and aggressively can stop its spread and protect people.
- CDC estimates this approach could prevent 1,600 cases of “nightmare bacteria” in one state alone over three years.
- For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns)