

On November 24, buildings and landmarks across Canada will be illuminated light blue in support of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week is held annually from November 18-24 to increase awareness and action to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The Network for Coordinated AMR Awareness, National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID), and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) are teaming up to support a Canada-wide colour campaign called Go Blue. Buildings all across Canada will be illuminated in light blue on November 24th, 2022 to draw attention to this important cause.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

Antibiotics (and other antimicrobials, such as antivirals and antifungals) have saved millions of lives since their discovery – but are gradually becoming less effective as bacteria and other microbes develop drug resistance.

Infections can become drug-resistant when bacteria adapt and find clever ways to fight antibiotics.

Overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is speeding up drug-resistance.

Antibiotics have been heavily used in patients with COVID-19, which could further exacerbate this problem.

Why Does Antimicrobial Resistance Matter to Canadians?

Without antibiotics, routine surgeries like appendectomies and minor injuries are once again becoming life threatening.

People across the world ([as many as 1.27 million per year](#)) are dying due to drug-resistant infections, it can happen to anyone.

What Needs to Be Done to Stop Antimicrobial Resistance?

We can act now by developing new treatment and prevention options and using the antibiotics we already have much more judiciously, like not using antibiotics for the cold and flu and not using antibiotics for growth promotion in food animals. Canada and its provinces are developing [action plans](#) to address AMR.

Why Go Blue?

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the top global threats to human health, yet its impact is not well understood. Buildings across Canada including the CN Tower, BC Place, and Edmonton's High Level Bridge, are Going Blue on November 24 to bring awareness to the appropriate use of antimicrobials. A [full list of participating landmarks is shown on this map](#).

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