



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Ashwin Vasana, MD, PhD  
Commissioner

November 16, 2023

Dear Colleague,

**We are writing to share the launch of a new citywide regional antibiogram app and to encourage providers to use the app as a decision-support tool.** Antibiotic resistance is a global public health threat. In the United States, an estimated 2.8 million people develop antibiotic-resistant infections each year, resulting in more than 35,000 deaths.<sup>1</sup> Health care providers have an important role in preventing antibiotic resistance by prescribing antibiotics only when necessary, always prescribing the right antibiotic, at the right dose, and for the right duration, and impressing upon patients the importance of taking antibiotics as prescribed and completing the full regimen even if they feel better.

The new app provides antibiotic resistance data for the most commonly encountered bacterial pathogens. The NYC Health Department developed the regional antibiogram in collaboration with clinical decision support platform Firstline and with input from local hospitals, infectious disease physicians, pharmacists, and other community experts. Data are stratified by borough, age group (pediatrics, adult), and setting type (e.g., emergency rooms), and can be used in conjunction with clinical information to inform prescribing choices before susceptibility data are available. In addition to the antibiogram, the Firstline app includes access to an easy-to-navigate version of the [New York State 2017 Antibiotic Prescribing Guidelines](#).

**Firstline is available for mobile download for iOS or Android systems, or on the web at [app.firstline.org](http://app.firstline.org). Select “NYC Health Department” when prompted to choose a location.**

Thank you for your continued commitment to promoting and protecting the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashwin Vasana'.

Ashwin Vasana, MD PhD  
Commissioner

#### References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2019*. Revised December 2019. Accessed September 14, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/threats-report/2019-ar-threats-report-508.pdf>