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# Proclamation Statement for Antibiotic Awareness Week

*Dr. Maureen Tierney, Leader of the Nebraska Healthcare Associated Infections Program*

*November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Nebraska State Capitol*

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“Good Morning Governor Ricketts, Director of Public Health and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tom Williams, Deputy Director Jenifer Roberts-Johnson, and State Epidemiologist Dr. Safranek. I am Dr. Maureen Tierney, leader of Nebraska’s Healthcare Associated Infections Program. I would like to thank our colleagues at the Nebraska Medicine Antimicrobial Stewardship Assessment and Promotion Program, MDstewardship, the Nebraska Hospital Association, the Nebraska Healthcare Association, and the Great Plains QIN/QIO for their work in this field and for coming here today. The CDC has declared next week Antibiotic Awareness Week. About half of all antibiotics are prescribed inappropriately. Focusing on the misuse of antibiotics is important because overuse can lead to resistance to antibiotics, a rise in *C. difficile* infection and other serious side effects, and an alteration in healthy gut bacteria, also called our microbiome. Activities and published materials next week will highlight how antibiotics should be prescribed: the right medicine for the right reason for the right amount of time. This is called antibiotic stewardship. More information about the “Smart Use” of antibiotics can be found at [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use) and the [Nebraska DHHS Epidemiology HAI](#) webpage. Thank you very much Governor for supporting the DPH-HAI program and its partners in their efforts to reduce unnecessary antibiotic usage, which will help Nebraskans live healthier lives.”