

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It's time to unlock your child's artistic creativity in order to spread an important public health message! The New York State Department of Health has "just the thing": we're calling this contest the **"Superbug Superheroes Art Contest"**!

You may have read about the growing public health concern about antibiotic resistance (AR), where bacteria that cause infections are changing to the point where antibiotics we have relied on for years to kill those "bad bugs" (sometimes called "superbugs"), may not be as effective as they were in the past. That has happened because of overuse and misuse of antibiotics. In part, this problem has been made worse by some of us patients taking antibiotics for viral infections (where they won't work) rather than for bacterial infections (where they do work). Many experts worry that in the not-too-distant future, antibiotics we have in the medicine cabinet now, might not work when we have a serious infection. To learn more about antibiotic resistance (AR) see attached one page fact sheet or go to this CDC webpage:

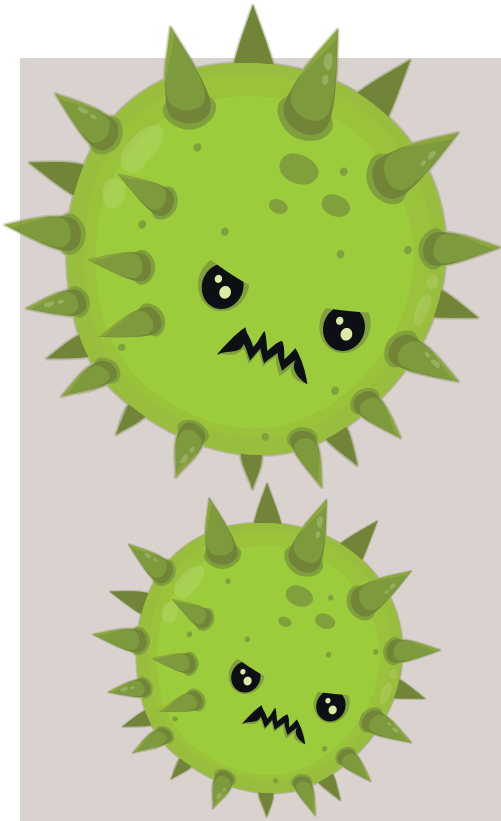
https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/infographics/pdf/World_Antibiotic_Awareness_Infographic-1st.pdf

So, we need the next generation to spread the message of "antibiotic stewardship," which just means we will take care to use antibiotics only when needed and listen to doctors when they tell us our infection is viral and antibiotics won't work. Children's art is a great way to get across the message to both their fellow students and adults, that we need to conserve antibiotics for the future. That's how they become **"Superbug Superheroes"**!

This contest is open to students in 3 categories: grade 3, grade 4, and grade 5. Children are encouraged to draw or graphically represent ways they and their families can become "Superbug Superheroes" (for example, washing hands frequently and thoroughly, taking all their antibiotics exactly as the doctor prescribes, and getting proper vaccinations), following the narrative in the attached story "Help Save Andy Biotic!". A panel of judges will choose three winners in each category who will receive a prize/certificate, and their artwork will be displayed on the New York State Department of Health's public website. Artwork will not be returned. **Entries are due by 5 pm, on December 1, 2019.**

Attached to this letter is the children's announcement and narrative, competition guidelines, parental consent form and design template. The art must be the child's original work.

We invite you to encourage your children to start by reading the narrative of, "Help Save Andy-Biotic" and help them enter the contest.



Hey Kids,

Do you love art?
Do you love to share your art?
Do you know about antibiotics
and how they fight germs?

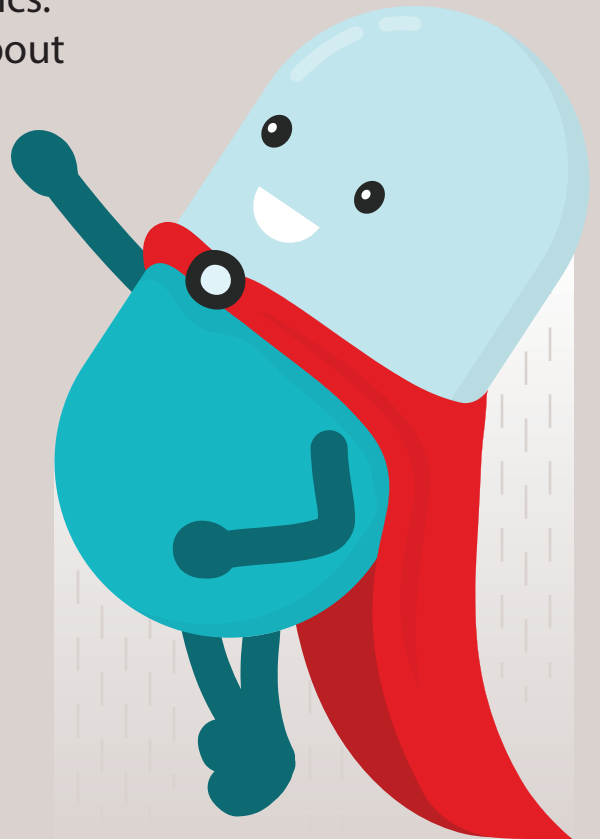
That's why we need YOU to share your best artwork showing how we can all be "Superbug Superheroes". Superbugs grow when we don't use antibiotics the right way.

Show how we can save and protect antibiotics. Draw a picture to go along with the story about antibiotic resistance and "Andy Biotic." He's a superhero who needs help to stay strong.

Ask your parents or your teacher to help you enter. They can read the rules in this form and help you learn about antibiotic resistance:

https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/infographics/pdf/World_Antibiotic_Awareness_Infographic-1st.pdf

We look forward to seeing how creative YOU can be!



HELP SAVE ANDY-BIOTIC!!

ANDY-BIOTIC is a powerful superhero.

He is a kind of medicine called an antibiotic.

Antibiotics work to kill germs (“Bad Bugs”) that can make you sick.

Those germs are called bacteria.

Viruses can also make you sick. They cause colds, the flu, most coughs and most sore throats.

Andy is great at fighting sickness caused by bacteria.

But Andy’s powers don’t work on viruses.

Unfortunately, many of us have taken antibiotics when they don’t work, like when a virus makes you sick.

That has made Andy lose some of his powers.

Even though Andy is a strong fighter of bacteria, the bacteria have ways of changing to make themselves strong too.

If we don’t stop taking too many antibiotics, there may be a day when Andy’s powers can’t help us fight any sickness, even if it’s caused by bacteria.

Or, we might have to take super-strong medicines that could cause our stomachs to feel bad.

We don’t need that!

Will you promise to help us save Andy Biotic?

Promise today to be an Andy-Biotic Champion!

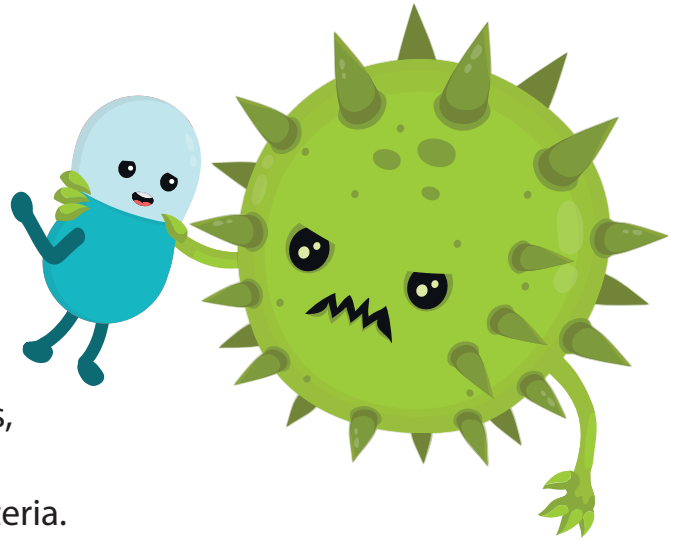
That means:

- Not asking your doctor for antibiotics when you have a virus (they won’t work)
- Not saving antibiotics you haven’t finished for a later time
- Washing your hands often to get rid of “Bad Bugs”
- Getting the right shots (vaccinations)

HOORAY!

By reading this and making the promise You are officially an “Andy-Biotic Champion”!

You’re helping to save antibiotics for the future!



Superbug Superheroes Art Contest Competition Guidelines



How to Enter the “Superbug Superheroes Art Contest”:

- Following the narrative in the attached story “Help Save Andy Biotic!”, encourage children in grades 3, 4, and grade 5, to draw or graphically represent ways that they can become “Superbug Superheroes” (for example, washing hands frequently and thoroughly, taking all their antibiotics exactly as the doctor prescribes, and getting proper vaccinations).
- Fill out and sign the attached Parental/Guardian consent form
- Download/print the attached template on this form which the student can use to create artwork either by hand or by computer. When you’re done, scan and send back (with parental consent form) to ARresources@health.ny.gov
- OR: You can also create the artwork on a regular 8.5”X11” size piece of paper and mail it to: New York State Department of Health, Attention: Mary Beth Wenger, Room 2812, Corning Tower, Albany, NY 12237. You will still need to print out the parental/guardian consent form and mail it with the artwork.
- Make sure we receive the artwork by the deadline: 5 pm, December 1, 2019.
- Only one entry per child, please, and the artwork must be original!
- Please be sure to keep a copy as NYS Department of Health cannot return entries.
- Above all, we’d like to see your child show their creativity with drawing and words.

Artwork will be judged by a panel of NYSDOH staff based on:

- Understanding of antibiotic resistance
- Creativity/originality/artistic merit
- Adherence to Andy-Biotic story

Prizes to be awarded:

- Certificate commending the recipient as a “Superbug Superhero” for participating in each category (third through fifth grade).
- Winning artwork will be displayed on the New York State Department of Health’s public website. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category receive a special prize.
- Award Ceremony Invitation to the Office of the Commissioner of the NYSDOH

Adults and students can also learn more about antibiotic resistance (AR) with the attached fact sheet or by going to the CDC webpage: www.cdc.gov/features/antibioticuse/index.html

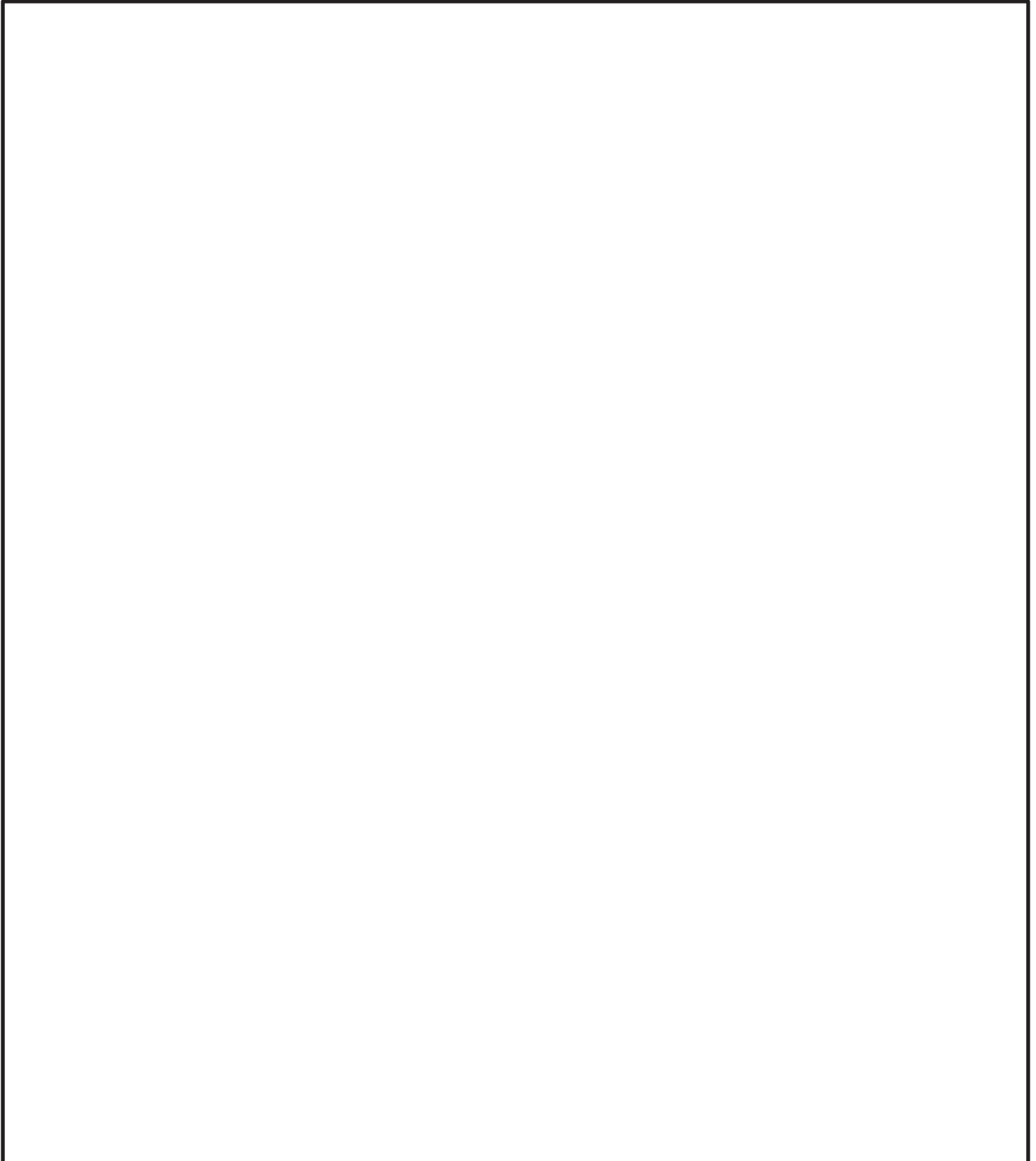
2019 "Superbug Superheroes" Art Contest Drawing Template

Child's name _____

Grade of Student (3rd, 4th, or 5th grade) _____



**Department
of Health**



2019 "Superbug Superheroes Art Contest" Parental Consent Form*

Name of parent or legal guardian _____

Child's name (art contestant) _____

Child's date of birth _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Grade of Student (3rd, 4th , or 5th) _____

By checking this box I agree:

1. The contestant has my consent and permission to enter and participate in the 2019 "Superbug Superheroes Art Contest"
2. I agree that I have read and understood the attached competition guidelines and agree the contestant and I will follow those guidelines.
(Any questions? Contact ARresources@health.ny.gov).
3. I will allow the contestant's first name, age, grade and artwork to be displayed on the NYS Department of Health's Antibiotic Resistance webpage, shared via NYSDOH Facebook page and Twitter posts, or to be used by NYSDOH for future promotional purposes.

Parent or legal guardian contact information:

Contact Name (must match signature) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Contact phone number _____

Contact email _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Date signed

** Privacy statement: All personal contact information shared on this form will be kept confidential and is solely for purposes of contacting contestants should they win. This information will not be used, sold or otherwise distributed to third parties.*