



# Antibiotic resistance: How does antibiotic resistance spread?

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Infographic

18 Nov 2014

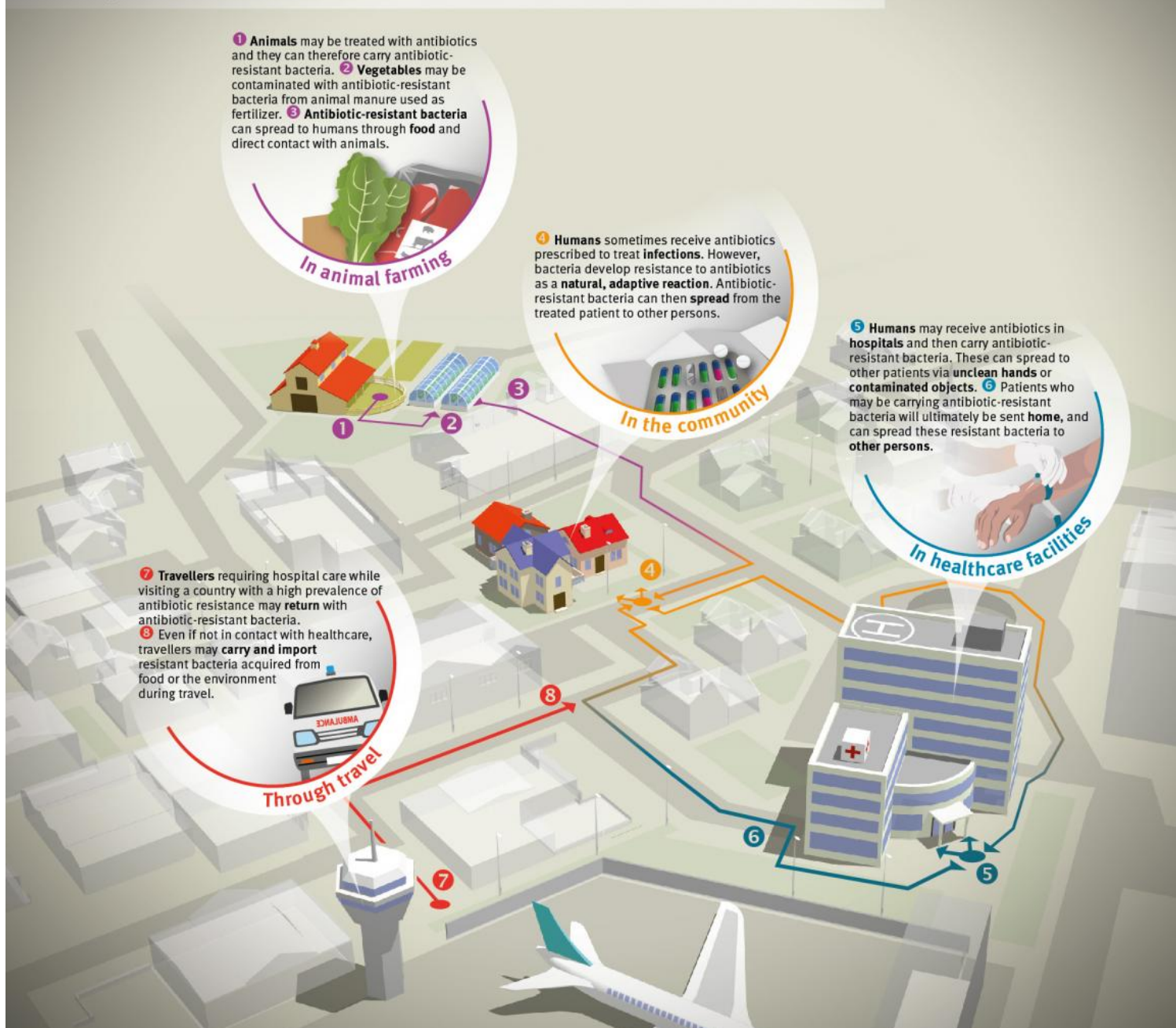
**This infographic explains how antibiotic resistance spreads in animal farming, in the community, in healthcare facilities and through travel.**

**Antibiotic resistance is a natural occurrence caused by mutations in bacteria's genes. However, inappropriate use of antibiotics accelerates the emergence and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. When exposed to antibiotics, susceptible bacteria are killed; while excessive antibiotic use or their use for the wrong reasons can cause bacteria to become resistant and continue to grow and multiply. These resistant bacteria may spread and cause infections in other people.**

**The infographic was developed as part of the ECDC effort to support national campaigns on prudent antibiotic use.**

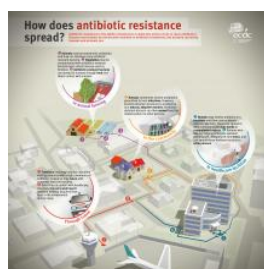
# How does antibiotic resistance spread?

Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to combat the action of one or more antibiotics. Humans and animals do not become resistant to antibiotic treatments, but bacteria carried by humans and animals can.



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