

November 2025

# Criteria Antibiotic Smart Sweden - Municipal Management

**These criteria have been developed in dialogue with relevant stakeholders and professionals at the municipal management level in different geographical locations in Sweden.**

## Formal decision

1. The municipality makes an overarching decision to work towards becoming an antibiotic-smart municipality.

Purpose: To ensure that the work is sustainable and continues regardless of political leadership. For the issue to be recognised and prioritized, the decision should be anchored in all relevant sectors.

2. The municipality describes in municipal steering documents that they are working on an overarching level to become an antibiotic-smart municipality.

Purpose: To make visible how the municipality's different areas of operation/services are connected to the issue of antibiotic resistance and infection prevention. The work can, for example, be linked to existing work on public health and sustainable development.

## Coordination and organisation

3. The municipality has appointed a strategic-level function with clear and defined responsibility to coordinate the work with Antibiotic Smart Sweden within the municipality. This function is also the municipality's contact person with Antibiotic Smart Sweden.

Purpose: By designating a specific function for coordinating the work and describing the assignment, chances are improved of achieving long-term sustainability.

4. The municipality has a working group with representatives from relevant administrations or from the operations in the municipality that work with antibiotic-smart criteria.

Purpose: To create an opportunity for dialogue regarding the criteria work among the municipality's antibiotic-smart services/operations. In the working group, services/operations can share obstacles, successes, and good examples from their respective work concerning infection prevention and antibiotic resistance. The group can serve as a forum for knowledge exchange and organizational learning within the municipality. There should be a formal decision regarding the group's mandate to drive the effort, and the work could be led/coordinated by a designated function as described in criterion 5 below.

5. The municipality ensures that the right conditions are provided for its services (preschool, school, elderly and disability care, as well as water and sewage) to work according to the criteria of Antibiotic Smart Sweden.

Purpose: Once strategic decisions have been made, the municipality should provide the conditions and opportunities to implement those decisions. A shared understanding between the political/strategic level and the operational level is important to ensure that the work can be prioritized. The working group (criterion 4) needs to engage with the relevant services/units to identify conditions they need to work with the Antibiotic Smart initiative. In the dialogue, the services/units also need to express what they need in terms of support from the strategic level in infection prevention and antibiotic resistance.

## Follow-up

6. The municipality monitors and reports on the overall work to become an antibiotic-smart municipality in one of the municipality's reporting documents.

Purpose: To follow up on the decision to become an antibiotic-smart municipality, thereby sending a clear signal that the issue is prioritized. Monitoring the work is also a prerequisite for being able to see that appropriate activities and resources have been utilized and for measuring the effects of decisions. Transparency through clear communication vis-à-vis the municipality's residents also raises awareness of the issue of infection prevention and antibiotic resistance for politicians, municipal employees, and residents.

## Awareness-raising in society

7. The municipality annually conducts an initiative aimed at residents to highlight how the municipality works to prevent infections, limit the spread of infection and antibiotic resistance, as well as showcasing how residents themselves can act and contribute.

Purpose: To raise awareness among the municipality's residents about the issue of antibiotic resistance, while also providing concrete tips and advice on how residents can contribute.

## Optional Criteria

A. Procurement of Food: The municipality applies requirements for responsible antibiotic use in line with legislation and societal ambitions for at least 85% of procured unprocessed raw materials such as meat, poultry, eggs, and milk. The municipality applies requirements for responsible antibiotic use in line with legislation and societal ambitions for at least 75 percent of procured processed products containing raw materials of meat, poultry, eggs, and milk.

B. Procurement of Meal Services: The municipality applies corresponding requirements for responsible antibiotic use as with food procurement, for at least 85% of procured meal services containing raw materials of meat, poultry, eggs, and milk.

Purpose: The municipality is responsible for procuring several product categories that can be relevant to efforts to reduce antibiotic resistance through public meals. This presents with an opportunity to use the antibiotic-smart criteria to contribute to sustainable antibiotic use within food production.

Responsible antibiotic use in line with legislation and societal ambitions. In 2017, the Swedish Parliament decided on Sweden's first food strategy. According to the strategy, it is important for the public sector to set requirements for their procured food and meal services that correspond to societal ambitions regarding environment and animal welfare.