

November 2025

# Criteria Antibiotic Smart Sweden - Schools

**These criteria have been developed in dialogue with relevant stakeholders and professionals in the Swedish school system and pilot-tested in schools in different geographical locations in Sweden.**

By working with Antibiotic Smart Sweden's criteria, schools can involve and prepare students and staff to be knowledgeable, active citizens who contribute to reducing the spread of infections and the risk of antibiotic resistance—both now and in the future.

## Education and Activities for Students

1. The school uses educational materials and activities that provide an in-depth knowledge about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance when these topics are mentioned in teaching plans.

**Purpose:** The students gain deeper knowledge about antibiotics, antibiotic resistance and ways to mitigate the problem. This increases awareness of the problem and possibility of making informed choices.

**Background:** Antibiotics and antibiotic resistance are only mentioned (as of Jan 2024) in the Swedish teaching plans for Biology in primary school and for a few courses in high school. Hence it is important that the education provided within these courses is comprehensive and involves the students more actively.

**Fulfilment:** The school has used educational materials and activities that provide a deeper knowledge of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance when these topics are mentioned in the teaching plans.

2. The school includes antibiotics and antibiotic resistance in the regular education in at least one subject or course when these topics are not explicitly mentioned in the teaching plans.

**Purpose:** More students receive education about antibiotics, antibiotic resistance and ways to mitigate the problem. This increases awareness of the problem and possibility of making informed choices.

**Background:** Antibiotic resistance is a complex global problem that affects and involves several sectors in society and that is connected to for example sustainable development, people's lifestyles and the production of food and medicine. In addition to the perspectives that are included in the subject of Biology, there is opportunity to address central aspects of antibiotic resistance also within the teaching of other subjects and areas of knowledge.

**Fulfilment:** The school has included antibiotics and antibiotic resistance in the regular education in at least one subject or course when these topics are not explicitly mentioned in the teaching plans.

3. The school arranges one or more activities (preferably interdisciplinary) with a focus on infections, antibiotics and antibiotic resistance as a complement to the regular education.

**Purpose:** More students receive education about antibiotics, antibiotic resistance and ways to mitigate the problem. The students gain a deeper and broader knowledge about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance. This increases awareness of the problem and possibility of making informed choices.

**Background:** Antibiotic resistance is a complex global problem that affects and involves several sectors in society and that is connected to for example sustainable development, people's lifestyles and the production of food and medicine. There are thus good opportunities to use antibiotic resistance as a theme for various activities in schools to spread knowledge and engage students in important social issues.

**Fulfilment:** The school has arranged one or more activities (preferably interdisciplinary) with a focus on infections, antibiotics and antibiotic resistance as a complement to the regular education.

## Organisation and Professional Development for Staff

4. The work with criteria should be supported by the school leadership that encourages engagement, professional development and teaching about infection prevention, antibiotics and antibiotic resistance.

**Purpose:** To show that this is a prioritized topic in the school and encourage engagement and commitment among staff.

**Background:** For teachers and other staff to be able to engage it is important that this is encouraged by the school leadership, and that they are given adequate possibility and time to do so.

**Fulfilment:** The work with criteria is supported by the school leadership that encourage engagement, professional development and teaching about infection prevention, antibiotics and antibiotic resistance.

5. The school offers staff training and information on antibiotic resistance, how to work preventively and that the school is striving to be an antibiotic-smart school.

**Purpose:** Teachers and other staff in schools gain a deeper awareness and knowledge of antibiotic resistance and preventive efforts. This in turn supports educational efforts towards students.

**Background:** It is important that the staff at the schools gain an increased understanding of what antibiotic resistance is, its effects on sustainable development and why it is important for the school to get involved. In order for the staff to gain in-depth knowledge, but also to inspire their teaching, the school can annually offer its staff training in hygiene and infection prevention, antibiotic resistance and the sustainable use of antibiotics. The training should be relevant to several staff categories, such as teachers, principals, janitors and school restaurant staff, and could be carried out in collaboration with for example the student health team or the regional communicable disease prevention and control unit or Strama group (Antibiotic Stewardship Coordinating Group).

**Fulfilment:** The school has offered staff training and information on antibiotic resistance, how to work preventively and that the school is striving to be an antibiotic-smart school.

## Sharing of Knowledge and Experiences

6. The school works actively to inform staff, students and guardians about what it means to be an antibiotic-smart school. **Purpose:** The school contributes to increased awareness among staff, students and guardians, also supporting the involvement of more staff and students at the school in the efforts to become antibiotic-smart.

**Background:** A key goal of Antibiotic Smart Sweden is to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of infection prevention and the problems associated with antibiotic resistance in society. Schools are a key facilitator in this process.

Fulfilment: The school has informed staff, students and guardians through suitable channels.

7. The school shares learnings from the work with antibiotic-smart criteria and participates in knowledge exchange activities.

Purpose: The school contributes to dissemination and uptake of knowledge, learnings and good practices, and inspires other schools and actors in society to become antibiotic-smart.

Background: A key goal of Antibiotic Smart Sweden is to support the spread of experiences and good practices. It is important that schools share their learnings, useful educational materials and working methods - both internally among school staff, between schools and to other actors in society.

Fulfilment: The school has shared learnings and participated in knowledge exchange.