

Rise of drug-resistant superbugs rings alarm bells in Europe

LONDON – The spread of superbugs resistant to antimicrobial drugs shows no sign of slowing in Europe, health officials said on Tuesday, making food poisoning and other infections more difficult to treat.

Releasing data on the growth of antimicrobial resistance, the European Union's commissioner for health and food safety said it should "ring alarm bells" across the region.

"The report released today...shows we are entering into a world where more and more common infections become difficult – or even sometimes impossible – to treat," Vytenis Andriukaitis said in a statement.

Drug resistance is driven by the misuse and overuse of antibiotics and other antimicrobials, which encourages bacteria to evolve to survive by finding new ways to beat the medicines.

The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) report analyzed 2017 data on antimicrobial resistance collected from 28 EU states.

It found that in a bacteria known as *Campylobacter* which can cause food poisoning in people, resistance to antibiotics called fluoroquinolones is so high in some countries that these drugs no longer work for the treatment of severe cases.

Most countries also reported that *Salmonella* in humans is increasingly resistant to fluoroquinolones, the report said, and multidrug resistance – classified as resistance to three or more antimicrobial medicines – is high in *Salmonella* found in humans and animals.

Mike Catchpole, the ECDC's chief scientist, said the report's findings on combined resistance were particularly worrying. "Even low proportions mean that many thousands of patients across the EU have limited treatment options for severe infections," he said.

Source:

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/02/26/19/rise-of-drug-resistant-superbugs-ring-s-alarm-bells-in-europe>

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