As we’ve seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, comprehensive surveillance is crucial for public health to identify and respond to emerging threats around the world. Surveillance is needed across One Health to understand the scope and risk of drug-resistant infections and to catch emerging threats when and where they emerge. Without surveillance, we will not be able to bring attention and needed resources to address AMR.

New systems built to address COVID-19 could help improve surveillance for AMR. For example, the rapid scale up of acute respiratory infection surveillance in hospitals to track every respiratory case is having a direct impact on managing the outbreak. We should build on these advancements globally and work toward a comprehensive AMR surveillance network.

COVID-19 has taught us that we need to collaborate. We need to cooperate. We need to coordinate our efforts, and we need to communicate – all key to fight AMR. We can use the framework, the mechanisms and architecture put in place for COVID-19 and implement solutions for AMR in an integrated and coordinated way.
As the moderator, Dame Sally Davies, stated at the end of the session:

“We need more capacity out there at every level to do the work, to think about the data, to support surveillance. And that has to start with microbiologists and decent laboratories to work in around the world.”

These key takeaways were shared by leading global experts on September 24, 2020 as part of the AMR in the Light of COVID-19 webinar series.

Links to Resources:

- Global Surveillance Resistance Surveillance System (Glass)
- CDC’s Antibiotic Resistance Threats In The United States
- CDC Prioritizing Domestic AR Surveillance
- How To Protect Yourself And Your Family From AR

Are you a healthcare provider or veterinarian? Learn how to protect your patients here.

SEDRIC launched a map to collect details of research projects focused on the surveillance of drug resistant infections.