

# THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

## Worksheet for Matt McCarthy | The Race to Stop a Superbug Epidemic (Episode 222)

With anti-vaccination lunacy running rampant and major metropolitan areas experiencing an ever-increasing homeless problem that squeezes society's most destitute into close quarters, the climate is ripe for the return of diseases that were all but eradicated decades ago. But if measles, mumps, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, and bubonic plague on a comeback tour aren't enough to scare you, here's something else you can worry about instead: death from antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria.

[In this episode](#) we speak with infectious disease specialist and [Superbugs: The Race to Stop an Epidemic](#) author Dr. Matt McCarthy about how superbugs adapt to the overuse of antibiotics, what makes this a recipe for disaster, and why we're seemingly just sitting here with our hands in our pockets waiting to be wiped out by a plague of our own creation.

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## Enticing Big Pharma

Pharmaceutical companies don't have much financial incentive to create superbug-defeating antibiotics. Unlike a blood pressure medication that can be prescribed (and sold) to patients for the rest of their lives, the problem with creating new antibiotics to combat superbugs is they're only prescribed in short doses, ethical doctors dole them out sparingly, and they become obsolete once they've done their job. Matt describes push and pull incentives the government might use to entice big pharma to make these drugs, but taxpayers already suspicious of the industry will be resistant.

**Push:** "Go to that company and say, 'Your corporate tax rate is 20 percent. let's cut it to 15 percent if you promise to invest a portion of those profits into new antibiotics.'"

**Pull:** "If a company does the investment of a billion dollars and they get that drug approved, rather than giving them five years of market exclusivity, you give them 25 years."

**What are the pros and cons of these kinds of incentives? Which is more appealing to you? Do you have any ideas for a third option that might be more of a win/win for all parties involved?**

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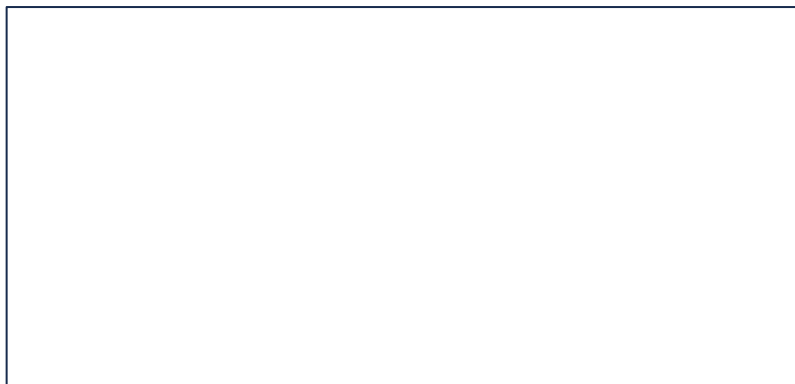
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## Responding to Anti-Vaxxers

Even though vaccines have proven effective against our most deadly diseases, there's a community that refuses to immunize their own children based on rumors, hearsay, and plain old bad science. These are the anti-vaxxers, and you might even know a few. One of their most common arguments is: Diseases like measles mostly affect the vaccinated, so vaccines don't work.

"This is a side argument that's meant to confuse people and mystify things and cloud the discussion," says Matt. "The simple answer to this is the vaccine works. It's safe. When people don't get vaccinated, we have outbreaks. I'm seeing measles now and I did not see it 10 years ago. And the reason for that is people aren't getting vaccinated."

**Do you personally know any anti-vaxxers? You probably won't change any minds by approaching the topic emotionally, but you can [study up on the facts here](#). And [here](#). And [here](#). And [here](#). Then come to your own conclusions and present them accordingly.**



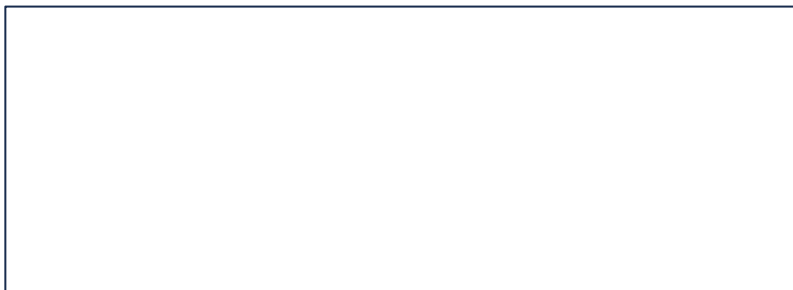
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## A Biblical Plague?

“I was giving a talk about the book and someone raised their hand and said, ‘In the Bible, they said locusts were cast upon the earth as a penalty for our poor behavior. Are superbugs something similar?’ I had never considered it that way, but in some ways, that’s a fair appraisal of the situation,” says Matt. “On a small scale, doctors are prescribing antibiotics when they shouldn’t, and patients aren’t taking them as directed. And on a large scale, we’re giving antibiotics to cattle and pigs and chickens in ways we shouldn’t. We’re using tuberculosis drugs in our orange farms. We use our precious fungal drugs in tulip gardens in The Netherlands. There’s a whole array of ways we could do better with these important drugs to prevent the spread of superbugs, but in many ways we’re causing their existence.”

**Matt says spreading awareness of this antibiotic overuse, and how it directly contributes to superbugs adapting beyond their protection, is one way each of us can do our part to alert the powers that be — from medical professionals to politicians — to the seriousness of this problem. Challenge: Think of five people you can tell about what you’ve learned in this episode, or pass it along so they can hear it for themselves. They’ll tell five friends, and so on, and so on...**



*Full show notes and resources for this episode [can be found here](#).*

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## About



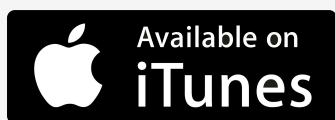
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We deconstruct the playbooks of the most successful people on earth — and learn new strategies, perspectives, and insights you can't find anywhere else. Then, take these valuable insights into your own life and live what you listen.

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