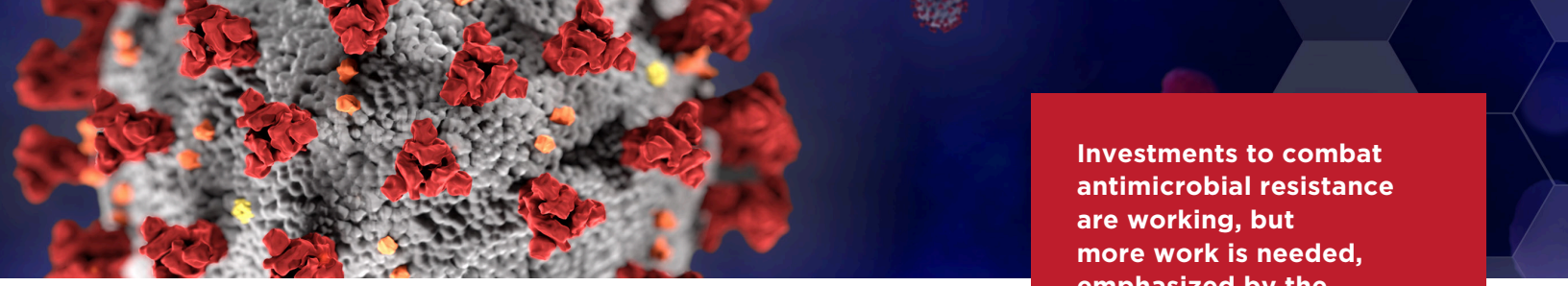

Investments to combat antimicrobial resistance are working, but more work is needed, emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States must continue to invest in preparing public health systems across One Health to address threats from multiple angles, simultaneously, and across One Health.

Building Public Health Capacity for Antimicrobial Resistance

CDC is and will remain at the forefront of combating antimicrobial resistance, including leading infection control and response efforts. The agency makes key investments towards establishing a stable foundation for public health that slows the spread of antimicrobial resistance and prevents infections before they start. This work is transforming how the nation and world combat this threat.

First in 2013 and again in 2019, CDC highlighted gaps in knowledge related to antimicrobial resistance in its two Antibiotic Resistance Threats Reports.

It is inevitable that antimicrobial resistance will continue to emerge and spread, but the pandemic has negatively impacted core actions to limit the spread and its impact. Infection prevention and control practices were especially impacted—the most foundational and successful tool to protect people in healthcare settings and communities from getting an infection and the spread of antimicrobial-resistant germs.

Specimen collection and testing to track resistant infections was also heavily impacted, hampering the United States' ability to understand the burden of antimicrobial resistance to inform the public health response. The pandemic also revealed that CDC's aggressive pre-pandemic investments in the national infrastructure to combat antimicrobial resistance can be flexible and resilient when protecting the nation from more than one threat. Established networks, like CDC's AR Lab Network, can be leveraged during an emergency, offering foundational expertise that can pivot easily to address other threats when challenges arise.

The United States must continue to invest in prevention-focused public health actions, such as accurate laboratory detection, rapid response and containment, effective infection prevention and control, and expansion of innovative strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance. If properly resourced, the United States can continue to build resilient domestic and global public health systems to keep our nation safe against the threats of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.

Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance and Health Equity

Health equity is when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Many risks for antimicrobial-resistant infections are tied to social determinants of health—where people live, how often people engage with health care, quality of care received, and other factors. CDC is addressing health equity related to antimicrobial resistance as a part of CDC's CORE Initiative, an agency-wide strategy to increase equity across public health.

As a direct result of CDC's prevention investments through its Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions Initiative, the United States has implemented enhanced practices, new initiatives, and innovative studies. Data have shown national progress in slowing the spread of antimicrobial resistance and preventing these infections is possible.