Month, Day, Year

Contact Name

Address

Dear {name},

I am writing to tell you that I want my child to have access to what Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students now have: lunches that include fresh chicken raised without the routine use of antibiotics. I urge you to follow in Chicago’s trailblazing footsteps to protect our children’s health.

In November 2011, CPS announced that they began serving fresh, unprocessed, local chicken raised without antibiotics to students in 473 schools. CPS’ enormous purchase (1.2 million pounds), made through food service provider Chartwells-Thompson Hospitality, is the largest of its kind. No other school district in the nation is regularly serving this kind of poultry at such a scale.

*Did you know that many industrial farms feed antibiotics to healthy food animals simply to offset the effects of overcrowding and poor sanitation and to promote faster growth?* In fact, up to 70 percent of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. go to food animals that aren’t sick. This practice puts human health at risk because it helps breed deadly antibiotic-resistant bacteria that can spread to people. And children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are especially at risk.

As next steps, you can learn more about the overuse and misuse of antibiotics on industrial farms and its impact on human health at [www.SaveAntibiotics.org](http://www.SaveAntibiotics.org); and review the new tool, *Guidelines that Minimize the Use of Antibiotics in Poultry Production, Recommendations for Schools and Other Institutional Food Service Buyers,* to see if this is something that could work for our school. The tool can be accessed at: <http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/HHIF-FOCUS-chicken-RFP-10.31.11.pdf>. Additionally, if your district is a member of the School Food FOCUS national collaborative, which worked with CPS on this initiative, contact them at <http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org> to see how your school can model itself after Chicago’s program.

Because the injudicious use of antibiotics on industrial farms threatens human health and the health of our children in particular, I believe our school and the district as a whole have a responsibility to take this important step and serve meat raised without the routine use of antibiotics to its students.

Thank you,

Name

Contact information