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Jane E. Henney, M.D.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

Dear Commissioner Henney:

The abuse of antibiotics on a large scale in agriculture is rendering them useless for human disease, a matter which touches the life of every American. As such, I demand that our FDA take swift action to put a halt to this irresponsible and dangerous practice.

Sincerely yours,

*Eleanor L. Jones*

# Chemicals cited in premature puberty

■ Several other factors also may contribute to the phenomenon occurring in young girls.

By **ANGEL WILSON**

Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Chemicals found in common items such as plastics and cosmetics are among the factors believed to cause early puberty in young girls, scientific experts said Wednesday.

These chemicals, along with several other possible factors such as genetics, may be contributing to the phenomenon of girls around the age of 8 — and in extreme cases, age 3 — developing breasts and pubic hair, the scientists said at a news conference sponsored by Environmental Media Services.

A study by Dr. Marcia Herman-Giddens involving 17,000 girls who were seeing pediatricians across the country revealed that early puberty is no longer uncommon. By 8-years-old, 48 percent of black girls and 15 percent of white girls show clear signs of puberty.

This early onset of womanhood can have both physical and mental consequences, said Dr. Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Center for Policy Research for Women and Fami-

made of polycarbonate is unfounded. ... Over the last 40 years, polycarbonate has been roughly tested by both government and industry researchers," the council said.

Herman-Giddens said no one is trying to point fingers, but that scientists and industry should try to work together to determine the causes of premature puberty.

"We will never come up with a single cause," she said.

Several other factors, including obesity, genetics, and even media influence are all being looked at.

Zuckerman, the psychologist, said one point should be remembered: "No matter how old they look, they're really little girls."

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