



# Foundations of Public Health

## Part III: Factors Related to Human Health

### ONE HEALTH

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#### Introduction

The context in which many of the world's most serious public health threats occur is often complex and frequently inextricably linked to the health of animals and the health of the environment. Although not a new idea, professionals from multiple sectors are now embracing this concept under the name, One Health as they collaborate across disciplines to search for ways to address critical issues in not only public health, but also veterinary health, wildlife conservation, environmental protection, and other areas.

Central to the holistic, systems framework of a One Health approach is recognition that the health of populations is an outcome of the interactions between humans, animals, and the ecosystem in which they exist. Accordingly, when confronted with a public health issue, One Health practitioners work to identify and understand the linkages between all relevant human, animal, and environmental components within the affected ecosystem. Once this ecological perspective is achieved, appropriate, effective and sustainable public health control and prevention interventions can be developed.

This module summarizes key concepts and principles behind the One Health approach, reviews the history of One Health, and demonstrates application of a One Health framework for formulating global public health strategies of disease control and prevention.

#### Learning Outcomes

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Describe the burden of zoonotic diseases on human health.
- Explain how acceleration in anthropogenic environmental change is contributing to increasingly numerous and complex public health problems at local, national, and global levels.
- Describe the history of One Health.
- Discuss how various organizations define One Health, identifying unifying concepts and principles that are required for the sustainable management of complex health problems arising from human, animal, and environmental interactions.



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