Accessible version: https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/index.html

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# Why is **ONE Health** IMPORTANT?

Human health is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.



In today's world, people and animals interact more closely and more often than ever before, sharing environments, diseases, and other health concerns.



Every year, millions of people and animals around the world are impacted by zoonotic diseases (diseases that spread between animals and people).



Diseases don't recognize borders.



### But **ONE** Health isn't just about zoonotic diseases. Other issues that can benefit from a **ONE** Health approach include:



#### ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Antibiotic-resistant germs can quickly spread through communities, the food supply, healthcare facilities, and the environment (soil, water), making it harder to treat certain infections in animals and people.



#### VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

Vector-borne diseases are on the rise with warmer temperatures and expanded mosquito and tick habitats. Vectors are mosquitoes, ticks and fleas that spread disease. A person who gets bitten by a vector and gets sick has a vector-borne disease.



#### FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY

Diseases in food animals can threaten food supplies, livelihoods, and economies.



#### MENTAL HEALTH

The human-animal bond can help improve mental well-being.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

Contamination of water used for drinking, recreation, and more can make people and animals sick.

Recognizing these connections means a healthier world for all. The **ONE Health** approach can:



**Prevent** outbreaks of zoonotic disease in animals and people



**Improve** food safety and security and economies reliant on livestock production



**Reduce** antibiotic-resistant infections and improve human and animal health



And **protect** global health security

The **ONE Health** approach helps protect the health of all living beings by bringing experts across fields together to solve problems threatening humans, animals, and the environment.





