



Disease Prevention and Control

Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals working in healthcare settings are frontline actors when zoonotic diseases pose a potential threat to human health, thereby contributing to the prevention, surveillance and measures of disease control.⁵⁴

Supporting Health Practice on Zoonotic Diseases

What you can do in practice

Patient Counselling

Counselling patients on personal prevention measures:

- Avoiding unfamiliar animals and maintaining healthy conditions for pets and farmed animals.
- Preventing insect bites and following good hygiene practices to limit exposure to zoonotic agents in the environment
- Reducing exposure risks, including occupational, recreational, and travel-related exposures.

Patient Assessment

To support your assessment, consider:

- Exposure history and transmission pathways
- Individual risk factors
- Current epidemiology of the disease
- Nature of the disease (e.g. severe vs asymptomatic)

Patient Management

- Pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, including vaccination or chemoprophylaxis, may be available depending on the pathogen/ zoonosis.

Recommended actions for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases will depend on multiple factors, including the mode of transmission, exposure risks, current epidemiology and the nature and severity of the disease (e.g., asymptomatic versus severe illness).



Recognize patient exposure and risk factors

Zoonoses

Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (ZIDs)

Diseases that spread between animals and humans, with causal agents being pathogenic microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites.

Stay Informed

Health professionals are encouraged to consult resources to remain informed about the current zoonotic disease landscape, including:

- Pre-travel health assessments
- Awareness of travel health notices and advisories
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Risk assessments for public health professionals
- Public Health Notices
- Surveillance

Explore Recommended Resources



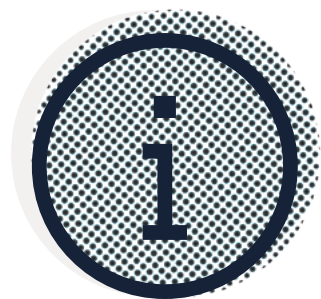
Report and Notify

Contribute to Disease Control

- **Reportable and Notifiable Zoonoses:** Reporting and notifying of zoonotic diseases are essential for early outbreak detection, effective public health and animal health response, targeted prevention, and ongoing surveillance at local, national, and international levels.⁵⁵

Healthcare providers support disease prevention and control.

Early detection and control reduce disease incidence, in both people and animals.⁵⁶



Become familiar with zoonoses and their trends



Explore up-to-date resources to support clinical practice