



## **Public Health Modernization:**

An Equity-centered Public Health  
System for a Modern, Changing, World

All people in Oregon deserve to live in a state where they can have the best chance at health. All Oregonians deserve to have access to quality, affordable health services. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted major gaps in our health system which showed us that new, complex public health threats do not impact all Oregonians equally. It is unjust that rural communities, communities of color, tribal communities, disability communities, and other underserved communities experience worse effects of health problems. One key solution to this problem is to create an equity-centered public health system through Public Health Modernization.

Oregon's public health system is made up of state, local, and tribal public health authorities, as well as partners like community-based organizations, regional health equity coalitions, health care providers, faith-based institutions, schools, environmental agencies, and partners from different sectors. All these groups work together to create health for all Oregonians. Governmental public health plays a very important role by working across sectors to bring people together, advancing local policy and environmental changes, and making sure that Oregon is ready for public health threats before they happen.

Complex public health problems require comprehensive solutions. Public Health Modernization makes sure that Oregon's public health system is based in communities, strong, flexible, and supported.

## **Public health modernization strengthens Oregon's public health system by:**

- Growing partnerships with communities
- Making sure the public health workforce is trained, responsive, and valued
- Bringing together groups like communities, local and tribal governmental public health, and other partners across the state toward collective solutions for health
- Supporting community-led, equity-focused data collection and sharing
- Increasing access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity and community resiliency
- Engaging in prevention initiatives and creating solutions that minimize the impact of public health threats
- Increasing access to preventative health services, including comprehensive reproductive health services