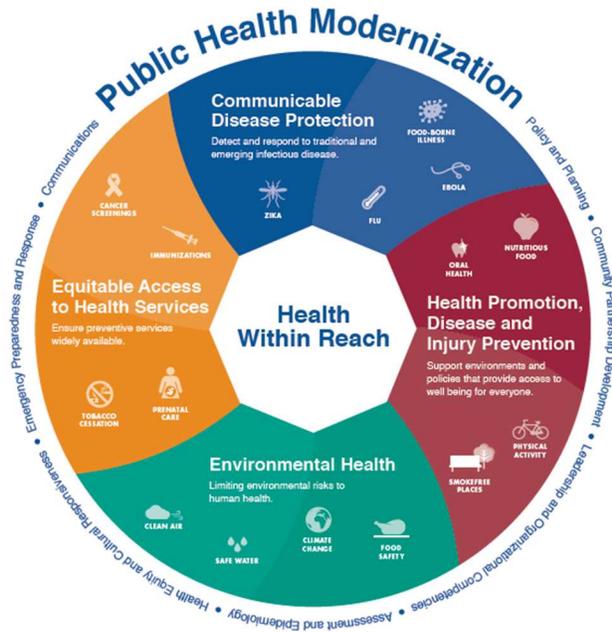


**Oregon's governmental public health system is changing how it prevents disease and protects and promotes health.**

A modern public health system ensures critical public health **protections** are in place for every person in Oregon, that the public health system is **prepared** and has the right resources to address emerging health threats, and that the public health system is engaged daily to **eliminate health disparities**.

A 2016 assessment<sup>1</sup> of Oregon's governmental public health system found gaps between the current system and a modern system. Overall, governmental public health had limited or minimal capacity to provide core public health functions in one third of Oregon communities. Some of the largest gaps were in communicable disease control and health equity.



## The landscape for public health is changing

In many ways today's health threats are more complicated than the threats of the past. Climate changes brings new challenges such as cyanotoxins in drinking water; international travel supports the local spread diseases like Zika; and illnesses of the past are resurging, as with the current measles outbreak in SW Washington.

While health is improving for some, not everyone is benefitting equally. Some groups, including those living with fewer financial resources and communities of color, continue to bear a greater burden of illness and disease.<sup>2</sup>

## Legislative direction and timeline for public health modernization

In 2015 the Legislature passed House Bill 3100 which established a new framework for governmental public health that ensures that all people in Oregon have the best possible opportunity to be healthy.

<sup>1</sup> Oregon Health Authority (2016) State of Oregon Public Health Modernization Assessment Report. Available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/PHModernizationReportwithAppendices.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Health Authority (2018). Oregon's State Health Assessment. Available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Documents/sha/state-health-assessment-full-report.pdf>.

In 2017 the Legislature made a \$5 million investment in public health modernization. Under the guidance of Oregon’s Public Health Advisory Board, OHA is using this investment to begin to modernize Oregon’s systems for communicable disease control, emphasizing the elimination of communicable disease health disparities.

## 2017-19 investment in communicable disease control

Eight partnerships of local public health authorities, covering 33 counties, are using 2017-19 funding for regional communicable disease control interventions that address the unique needs of each community. To support the LPHA partnerships, OHA is using funding to improve communicable disease data systems that are used across the state and to improve how population health data are collected, reported, and made available to communities and partners who rely on them.

Early evaluation results show that the 2017-19 investment is resulting in:

- **Increased capacity** to rapidly conduct outbreak investigations;
- **Better preparation** for public health emergencies;
- New and stronger **partnerships with tribes and regional health equity coalitions**;
- New **partnerships with health care partners** that will prevent the spread of communicable disease and improve health outcomes.

Future investment in modernizing governmental public health will continue to expand capacity to prevent and respond to communicable disease threats.

## The Public Health Advisory Board

Oregon Health Authority is following the Public Health Advisory Board’s recommendations for a phased, multi-year process to modernize the public health system. This

approach ensures that improvements occur statewide and that Oregon is using resources effectively to close the gaps identified 2016. A modern public health system is key to OHA’s vision of a healthy Oregon. For more information, visit

[healthoregon.org/modernization](http://healthoregon.org/modernization).

### Proposed phases for foundational programs

