

**Question:** Would prioritizing “One Health” strategies over alternatives neglect other critical Healthcare needs?

Con side

**Claim:** Prioritizing “One Health” strategies over other alternatives will benefit other critical healthcare needs by preventing the spread of disease and putting health first

**Argument:**

Human populations are growing and are expanding into fresh geological areas. This means that animals and humans are in closer contact and zoonotic diseases have an easier time spreading. Animals are also being forced out of their environments and moved to new ones or captured and traded, which also escalates the spread of disease. Animals play an important role in our world but can also lead to life threatening pandemics. One way to help these problems and stop new diseases from turning into pandemics is prioritizing a one health strategy. “CDC uses a One Health approach by involving experts in human, animal, environmental health, and other relevant disciplines and sectors in monitoring and controlling public health threats and to learn about how diseases spread among people, animals, plants, and the environment.” This approach can help us prevent outbreaks, improve food safety and security, reduce antimicrobial-resistant infections, protect global health security, biodiversity and conservation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people’s lives were at risk and the world shut down. People were not able to get the treatment they needed because medical centers were shut down or only accessible to people with the virus. Coronavirus is a zoonotic disease and COVID-19 caused such an impact because it went under the radar and no one knew it was coming. If we put time into “One Health” strategies, we could help prevent pandemics such as COVID-19 and people could have access to their healthcare needs.

**Importance:**

- One Health strategies would prioritize people and their health
- Zoonotic diseases usually are overlooked until there is no going back
- Communication between health professionals would allow education of the spread and changing ecology of disease

**Evidence:**

The Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit or OH-SMART is a tool to help tackle One Health challenges such as epidemics, disaster preparedness and antimicrobial action planning. “To date, OH-SMART has been used to strengthen One Health systems in 17 countries and has been deployed to revise emergency response frameworks, improve antimicrobial resistance national action plans and create multi agency infectious disease collaboration protocols.” (Ves, 1)

**Sources:**

Vesterinen, H. M., Dutcher, T. V., Errecaborde, K. M., Mahero, M. W., Macy, K. W., Ong-Orn Prasarnphanich, . . . Pelican, K. M. (2019). Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration on critical health issues: One health systems mapping and analysis resource toolkit (OH-SMART) for operationalizing one health. PLoS One, 14(7) doi:<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0219197>

About one health. (2024). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/one-health/about/index.html>

**Potential question:** If we don't prioritize “One Health” strategies, we could be susceptible to another pandemic that could cause more of an impact than COVID-19. How would people have access to their healthcare needs if this happened?

**Peer Arguments:** Each of my teammates is arguing a different reason how a One Health approach would not neglect other healthcare needs. Quinn is discussing how this approach would benefit societal life and Gabby is discussing the economical benefits. Even though we are all arguing different points, our three viewpoints help prove how a One Health strategy would not only benefit the people, but every part of our world.