

TABLE 5.1**One Health Approach to Infectious Diseases Common to Humans and Companion Animals**

Prepare Your Team	Resources and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about common infectious diseases that affect both humans and animals in your area.• Adopt best practices to keep your staff safe.• Reinforce recommendations and document compliance level in medical record at each visit.• Stock appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and train staff on when and how to use PPE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The following professionals can provide information and guidance on common infectious diseases of public health significance in your area:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local public health agencies• State public health veterinarians• State veterinarians• Federal public and animal health agencies.
Create Your Community Network	Resources and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network with local human health providers and public health agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer a continuing education event to local human health providers on a zoonotic disease in your area and what you see in pets.• Develop meet-and-greet sessions with local provider associations and veterinary associations.• Consider initiating One Health case rounds that can be discussed as an interdisciplinary group on a regular basis.• Start a journal club devoted to common infectious diseases of public health significance in your area.
Contacting Human Health Care Teams During an Incident	Resources and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get written permission from clients to speak to their providers when indicated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a consent form for clients to sign to allow you to speak with their health care provider.• Make sure to keep copies of the consent form in the patient's medical record.• Some health systems may require clients to sign the health system's release form.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember that health care providers cannot share certain information because of HIPAA unless they receive authorization from the client/human patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share concerns regarding possible exposure to infectious diseases of public health significance.• Share resources such as CDC website links or refer to the local public health department when appropriate.

(Continued on next page)

TABLE 5.1, CONTINUED

One Health Approach to Infectious Diseases Common to Humans and Companion Animals

Contacting Public & Environmental Health During an Incident	Resources and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring public health awareness is a key aspect of One Health and protecting the public—including you, your staff, and clients.• Zoonoses (e.g., plague, tularemia, influenza, salmonellosis) may present exposure risks to you and your staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify public health contacts for infectious diseases and for environmental health.• Contact your state public health veterinarian or refer to the CDC website for reporting procedures. Some states request a call to the state office, others to a county or city office. Know which diseases are reportable by law.• Notifying public health officials about a possible case can be helpful in the following ways:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It offers an educational resource about the disease, prevention, and staff/client safety.• Your data may help outbreak investigations and public awareness/outreach.• If you are unable to reach a client’s health care provider, a public health official has broader authority to work with the health care provider and review records associated with possible outbreaks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many agencies play a role in Environmental Health beyond Public Health. You may need to contact your local water agency (water contamination concerns), parks and recreation (regarding an environmental toxin or open-waterway contamination), or air resources agency for airborne concerns (such as wildfire smoke).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For vectors or contamination from water sources or toxins, contact your local Environmental Health Department.• If you see a case from a specific park or public space, contact the organization responsible to let them know about possible exposure risk at the site.• You may also want to reach out to the local Environmental Health Department responsible for vector control, water, and environmental quality.

The 2025 AAHA One Health Guidelines are available at aaha.org/onehealthpartnerships.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2025 AAHA.

