



Public Health Key Terms

clinical care: prevention, treatment, and management of illness and preservation of mental and physical well-being through services offered by medical and allied health professions; also known as *health care*.

determinant: factor that contributes to the generation of a trait.

epidemic: occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behavior, or other health-related event clearly in excess of normal expectancy. Both terms are used interchangeably; however, *epidemic* usually refers to a larger geographic distribution of illness or health-related events.

health outcome: result of a medical condition that directly affects the length or quality of a person's life.

intervention: action or ministrations that produces an effect or is intended to alter the course of a pathologic process.

pandemic: denoting a disease affecting or attacking the population of an extensive region, country, or continent.

population health: approach to health that aims to improve the health of an entire population.

prevention: action so as to avoid, forestall, or circumvent a happening, conclusion, or phenomenon (e.g., disease).