

April 7 – World Health Day 2026  
“Together for health. Be on the side of science”

World Health Day, traditionally marked on April 7, in 2026 sends a strong global message and a call to support science. In this context, this year’s theme, defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), is: “Together for health. Be on the side of science”, marking the beginning of a year-long campaign aimed at highlighting the importance of scientific collaboration in protecting health and ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems.

The focus is placed on the concept of “One health” – an integrated approach that emphasizes the close interconnection between humans, animals, plants, and the planet, indicating that health arises from complex and interdependent systems. The initiative brings together the global community around the key message that health cannot be protected without science, cooperation, and evidence-based decision-making.

In this regard, WHO calls on governments, scientists, healthcare workers, partners, and the broader public to stand on the side of science by using and respecting evidence, facts, and scientifically grounded guidelines for health protection, to rebuild trust in science and public health, and to support science-based solutions for a healthier future.

The health of people, animals, and ecosystems is inseparably linked. Globally, approximately 60% of infectious diseases that have emerged in recent years originate from animals. Urbanization, climate change, and ecosystem degradation create new risks for their spread. This clearly indicates that challenges related to human health cannot be solved in isolation but require a coordinated, multisector approach that connects human health, veterinary medicine, ecology, agriculture, and other fields.

Science plays a central role in this process by enabling:

- early detection and monitoring of diseases
- development of vaccines and therapies
- improvement of food safety
- protection of the environment
- addressing antimicrobial resistance

Scientific evidence has value only when it is translated into concrete action. Therefore, WHO emphasizes the importance of partnerships and multilateral cooperation as prerequisites for effective policies and sustainable solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the need for such an integrated approach, showing that global threats to human health often arise precisely from the interaction between humans, animals, and the environment.

The One Health concept implies better disease prevention, more effective preparedness and response, and improved management of health risks for a safer and more sustainable future. It is applied at all levels, from local to global, and is based on coordination, information sharing, and joint action.

In our country, such an integrated approach is of particular importance. The country faces significant public health challenges related to risk factors such as unhealthy lifestyle habits, air and water pollution, which highlight the connection between health and the environment.

Through the activities of the public health system, including national programs for immunization, screening, and health promotion, continuous efforts are being made to improve the health of the population. The data collected within the health information system, as well as their analysis by the Institute of public health and Centers for public health, provide a solid basis for informed decision-making and policy development. Strengthening trust in science-based recommendations remains key to achieving sustainable results.

In a time of global challenges, from infectious diseases to climate change, each of us should choose reliable information and be guided by scientific evidence, contributing to the development of the community.

The message for 2026 is clear:

Science works when we work together, and health is protected when we act informed.

Therefore:

Be on the side of science.

Choose evidence.

Support health for all – people, animals, and the planet.