

## Strengthening core competences of medical and public health students for public health emergencies

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### Background:

The importance of public health capacity development with a focus on public health emergencies and humanitarian assistance is continuously increasing at the global scale. In the time of Public Health Emergencies of International Concern is crucial to provide basic training in core public health competences to all health professionals, including students. Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic (full ASPHER member), implemented in medical as well as public health curricula new topics focused on core competences of health professionals in the area of public health emergencies and humanitarian assistance.

### Objectives:

To strengthen competences and skills of medical as well as public health students to prepare them better for public health emergencies and humanitarian assistance in the time of increasing risk of global public health emergencies. New

modules were proposed and tested in all education programmes at our Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Palacký University Olomouc (CZ): General Medicine (Czech and English programmes), Dentistry (Czech and English programmes) and Public Health (Czech programme).

### Results:

New modules on Public Health Emergencies, including preparedness, responses, risk management and risk communication were successfully tested in all education programmes during the academic year 2018/19 and fully implemented for the academic year 2019/20. New module has blended learning structure based on combination of face-to-face seminars and exercises with e-learning parts, including self-assessment. New module is presented in details.

### Conclusions:

This new education module fully supports international recommendations to strengthen public health competences and skills of medical as well as public health students to be ready for any unexpected public health emergencies at all levels, in particular at the local community level. COVID-19 pandemic confirmed.

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### Key messages:

- Medical and public health students with competences and skills on public health emergencies and humanitarian assistance will be an asset for any public health emergency of international concern.
- New education module on public health emergencies will support both medical and public health students to be prepared for risk communication, advocacy and action if needed and called to action.