

# Position on Human Health and the Environment

## Background

According to the World Health Organization, one out of four deaths globally is due to poor environmental health.<sup>1</sup> Air and water pollution, poor waste management and degradation of our ecosystems all impact human health. Also, climate change is impacting health by changing infectious disease patterns, exacerbating cardiovascular and respiratory impacts related to air pollution and airborne allergens, increasing heat-related illnesses, and concentrating trauma cases where extreme weather is occurring.

As stated in *The Lancet*, the failure to properly address environmental risk factors now “threatens to undermine the last half-century of gains in development and global health.”<sup>2</sup> It is evident that a healthy environment is critical to support human health.

## Relevance

As the world’s largest and most broadly based healthcare company, Johnson & Johnson recognizes that human health is inextricably linked to the health of the planet—we can’t have healthy people and communities without a healthy environment. To this end, we are committed to using our expertise and resources to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations, our products and our extended supply chain. We are also taking action to make the planet healthier by teaming with partners to expand our impact beyond our value chains.

## Guiding Principles

As stated in [Our Credo](#): “We must help people be healthier by supporting better access and care in more places around the world,” and “We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well... We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources.”

## Our Position

In order to preserve and protect human health now and in the future, Johnson & Johnson firmly believes that protecting the health of the environment demands global attention, prioritization and action. More specifically:

- **We believe the health of our planet is a global public health issue.** Environmental factors such as climate change, deforestation and air pollution impact global public health in many ways, including

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/detail/15-03-2016-an-estimated-12-6-million-deaths-each-year-are-attributable-to-unhealthy-environments>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)32464-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)32464-9/fulltext)

changing how infectious diseases emerge, spread and gain resistance, and exacerbating chronic illnesses like cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases.

- **We believe the healthcare sector has a unique role to play in improving the health of our planet.** Healthcare companies can lead by advancing research at the intersection of human and environmental health, advocating for sound, science-based policies that simultaneously protect environmental and human health; convening key opinion and thought leaders from both the public health and environmental fields to drive collective action; and leveraging their innovation know-how to develop products and solutions that prevent and mitigate the human health impacts of environmental degradation.
- **We believe everyone deserves access to a healthy environment.** The negative impacts of the environment on human health are distributed unequally from both a geographic and a demographic perspective. The most vulnerable individuals—such as children, the elderly, women, those with pre-existing health conditions, and the economically disadvantaged—are disproportionately affected. Conversely, evidence demonstrates that human wellbeing is dependent on exposures to healthy, natural settings. Actions to address environmental health and human wellbeing should be designed with access, equity and inclusion in mind.
- **We believe the human health value that the natural world provides should inform economic development and conservation policy.** Human health relies on services that ecosystems provide. This includes water purification, the provision of food and medicines, moderation of the climate, and regulation of disease vectors, pests and pathogens. Land use and natural resource decisions need to consider not only the impacts to critical ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain, but also unintended human health consequences, like the emergence of new infectious diseases.

To learn more about how we live into these beliefs, please visit our [Global Environmental Health](#) page or our annual [Health for Humanity Report](#).

For additional information on our positions and actions related to Climate, Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment, and Antimicrobial Resistance, visit [ESG Policies & Positions](#).

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