

## ACVPM STUDY REFERENCES

Revised: March 2026

The following list of study references is **NOT** a definitive, exhaustive list for preparing for the ACVPM examinations in the five subject areas:

1. Environmental Health and Toxicology
2. Epidemiology and Biostatistics
3. Food Protection
4. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
5. Public Health Administration and Education

Subcategories and Exam topics within each subject area are more comprehensively listed within the ACVPM [Model Curriculum](#). The Model Curriculum is an excellent resource to identify topic areas for focused study. A systematic reading of every listed resource is not an expectation of the Exam Committee, particularly since some of the resources have considerable overlap in content. Rather, each candidate should select references within each subject area to build upon and strengthen their own existing set of skills and knowledge. Supplementary titles are provided for those who wish to do additional reading. The current scientific and professional literature (ProMed, *JAVMA*, *MMWR*, *Lancet*, *NEJM*, *Science*, etc.) is also necessary to properly prepare for the examinations.

Primary references applicable to more than one subject area:

- The Merck Veterinary Manual by Cynthia M. Kahn and Scott Line, current edition, Merck Publishing Group (P) <https://www.merckvetmanual.com> (Environmental Health and Toxicology, Infectious Diseases)
- Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association (Infectious Diseases, Food Safety)
- Websites in topic areas: [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) (site includes access to MMWR), <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/fda-organization/human-foods-program>, <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/fda-organization/center-veterinary-medicine>, [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov), [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

### 1. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TOXICOLOGY

The Environmental Health and Toxicology section includes nine subcategories: Air; Land/soil; Water; Waste; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Occupational Health; Vectors; Radiation; and Toxicology. A balanced number of questions will be

drawn from each subcategory in the multiple-choice section of the exam. The Toxicology subcategory draws upon the principles of toxicology and toxic substances in general. Applied knowledge of toxicology is incorporated into many of the subcategories areas.

### Primary References

Websites provide key reference material and current topics related to EH&T subcategories:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov>, including (but not limited to):
  - MMWR
  - National Center for Environmental Health
  - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
  - One Health
- Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration <https://www.osha.gov/>
- Department of Agriculture <https://www.usda.gov/>
- Food and Drug Administration <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary>
- Federal Emergency Management Administration <https://www.fema.gov/>
- Department of Homeland Security <https://www.ready.gov/>
- United Nations Development Programme <https://climatepromise.undp.org/>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.noaa.gov/>
- NASPHV compendia and recommendations:  
<http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html>

Journals and other resources for current events:

- National Institutes of Health <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics>
- Zoonoses and One Health Update Call  
<https://www.cdc.gov/one-health/php/zohu/index.html>
- Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
- Zoonoses and Public Health
- DVM 360
- Frontiers (Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Public Health)
- Nature
- Science

## Supplementary References

- Peter Rabinowitz and Lisa Conti, editors, Human-Animal Medicine: Clinical Approaches to Zoonoses, Toxicants, and Other Shared Health Risks, 2010, Saunders/Elsevier (There are several non-infectious disease chapters that are applicable.)
- Osweiler, G.D.: Toxicology, 1996, Williams and Wilkins, Media, PA
- Landesman, Linda Young (ed): Public Health Management of Disasters, the Practice Guide, current edition. American Public Health Association
- Salvato, JA, Nemerow, N; Agardy, FJ; Sullivan, P (ed): Environmental Engineering, current edition, 3 Volumes, Wiley Press, Hoboken, NJ
- Koren, H; Bisesi, M: Handbook of Environmental Health (2 volumes), current edition, CRC Press/Lewis publishers, Boca Raton, FL
- Klaassen, C.D.: Casarett & Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons, current edition, McGraw-Hill, New York, NY
- Medical Management of Radiological Casualties, current edition, Military Medical Operations, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute  
<https://afri.usuhs.edu/publications>

## **2. EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS**

The Epidemiology and Biostatistics section of the multiple-choice exam includes questions that are drawn from subcategories listed within the [Model Curriculum](#).

Epidemiology is the basic science with tools to support decision making processes in veterinary public health and preventive medicine. It deals with the investigation of diseases, production losses, and health issues in animal and human populations. Essential activities within epidemiology encompass the broad areas of study design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Biostatistical methods and techniques are relied upon to objectively identify factors associated with specific outcomes.

Preventive medicine professionals and other practitioners must be able to integrate and synthesize epidemiological findings with their knowledge from other basic and clinical sciences to design effective disease control and health maintenance programs. This includes the ability to plan surveillance or research activities and to evaluate the results.

Additionally, the ACVPM Exam will require biostatistical knowledge that is essential for a Diplomate to operate within the preventive veterinary medicine fields. Candidates will need to demonstrate the ability to use and interpret basic biostatistics used in epidemiologic studies and investigations. More specific examples of hypothesis tests and statistical techniques are listed within the Model Curriculum. General biostatistics

books will provide the underlying knowledge but may need to be supplemented with an analytic epidemiology text.

### Primary References

- Dohoo I, Martin W, Stryhn H. Veterinary Epidemiologic Research, current edition. AVC Inc., Charlottetown, PEI, Canada.
- Smith RD. Veterinary Clinical Epidemiology current edition. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

### Supplementary References

- Thrusfield M. Veterinary Epidemiology, current edition. Blackwell Science: Ames, IA.
- Gordis L. Epidemiology, current edition. Saunders, Philadelphia, PA.
- Gregg MB. Field Epidemiology, current edition. Oxford University Press, Inc. NY, NY
- Rothman KJ. Epidemiology: An Introduction, current edition. Oxford University Press: NY, NY
- Daniel WW. Biostatistics: A Foundation for Analysis in the Health Sciences, current edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc: Hoboken, NJ.
- Rosner B. Fundamentals of Biostatistics, current edition. Duxbury Press: Belmont, CA.
- Glantz S. Primer of Biostatistics, current edition. McGraw-Hill Medical: NY, NY.

## **3. FOOD PROTECTION**

Food science in the ‘Farm to Fork’ spectrum is essential for a Diplomate to operate within the veterinary preventive medicine fields. See the ACVPM [Model Curriculum](#) for Food Protection subcategories.

### Primary References

Websites provide key reference materials and current topics:

- US Department of Agriculture (USDA), including:
  - Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS),  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/home> including applicable directives  
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/directives-notices-guidelines/fsis-directives>
  - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS),

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/home/>

- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), <http://www.fda.gov/>, including:
  - Food Protection topics
  - Pasteurized Milk Ordinance
  - Food Code
  - Bad Bug Book
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/>, including:
  - Food Protection Topics
  - MMWR
  - PulseNet
  - FoodNet
- World Health Organization (WHO), [https://www.who.int/health-topics/food-safety#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/food-safety#tab=tab_1), focused on current events and food protection topics
- FoodSafety.gov, <https://www.foodsafety.gov/>
- American Veterinary Medical Association, concentrating on current topics and articles related to Food Protection, <https://www.avma.org/>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>, focused on current events and food protection topics
- Review food science basics in a food science text of choice.
- Review hot topics in journals such as the Journal of Food Protection and above cited references.
- Review basics of foodborne outbreak investigations and calculations in an appropriate food science and/or epidemiology textbook. No specific text required.

#### **4. INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES**

The Infectious Diseases section includes eight subcategories: Immunology and Pathogenesis; Transmission; Pharmaceuticals; Biologics; Diagnostics and Chemicals; Bacterial, Viral, Rickettsial, Parasitic, TSE, and Mycotic Agents; Foreign Animal Diseases; and, General.

##### Primary References

- Foreign Animal Diseases – Current Edition – United States Animal Health Association: [USAHA Disease information](#)
- Diseases and current issues in swine: [Pork.Org](#)

- Veterinary Medicine: A textbook of the disease of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses, Current Edition, Radostitis, Gay, Hinchcliff, and Constable
- Handbook of Zoonoses: Identification and Prevention, Colville and Berryhill or Zoonoses and communicable diseases common to man and animals, Volumes I & II, Pan American Health Organization
- Emerging Infectious Diseases (on-line Journal), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal: CDC](#)
- Transboundary and Emerging Diseases of Animals. A. Rovid Spickler, J.A. Roth, G. Brown, and J. Galyon, (eds.) Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University, 2016, 344 pages. ISBN 0-978-0-9846270-5-9 [Transboundary and Emerging Diseases Wiley Online Library](#)
- Reference for animal health regulatory functions (animal disease programs, regulatory animal health, biotechnology regulations, emergency response) [USDA APHIS](#)
- Reference website for bovine brucellosis: USDA APHIS | National Brucellosis Eradication Program: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/bovine-brucellosis>
- Bovine tuberculosis regulatory information: USDA APHIS | National Tuberculosis Eradication Program <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/bovine-tuberculosis-cattle>
- International disease standards (WOAH):  
Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>  
Manual of diagnostic tests & vaccines for terrestrial and aquatic animals: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>
- NASPHV compendia and recommendations: <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html>
- Merck Veterinary Manual on-line: <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/>
- ISU Veterinary Diagnostic and production animal medicine- disease topics: <https://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/research/disease-topics>
- AVMA Knowledge base: <https://www.avma.org>
- AVMA Hot issues: <https://www.avma.org/News/Issues/Pages/default.aspx>
- Veterinary accreditation training modules on foreign animal diseases, role of agencies, aquatic animal diseases, antibiotic use, etc.: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap>
- CDC Animal parasites: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/animals.html>
- CDC zoonotic disease library: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/index.html>

- Infectious diseases overview- Mayo Clinic  
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/departments-centers/infectious-diseases/sections/overview/ovc-20456906>
- Infectious diseases overview Johns Hopkins:  
<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/infectious-diseases/>
- FDA consumer updates: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates>  
Federal Select Agent Program: [Federal Select Agent Program \(selectagents.gov\)](https://www.selectagents.gov/)

Supplementary References (Basic Immunology and Infectious Agent Textbooks – Current Edition)

- Veterinary Immunology – Current Edition, Ian Tizard
- Fenner's Veterinary Virology, N. James Maclachlan and Edward Dubovi editors.
- Parasitic Diseases. Michael Katz, Dickson D. Despommier, and Robert Gwadz
- Pathogenesis of Bacterial Infections in Animals, Carlton L. Gyles, J.F. Prescott, Glenn Songer, and Charles O. Thoen; or Essentials of Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology, Current Edition, G Carter and D Wise

## 5. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND EDUCATION

The Public Health Administration and Education section includes nine subcategories: Risk Assessment; Communications (including Risk Communication); Governmental Function; Governmental Organization; Laws, Policies and Plans; Leadership; Prevention; Surveillance/Monitoring; and Evaluation.

General Public Health Administration and Education study objectives include:

- Describe governmental functions (regulatory/rule-making and enforcement, policies, responsibilities, information/data collection and management) that directly impact public health.
- Understand the organizational structure and define the major federal agencies and departments with functions and responsibilities that pertain to public health.
- Describe governmental interactions and relationships (local, state, federal) pertaining to public health, including the relationship, responsibilities, and distinctions between environmental services, wildlife services, agriculture and public health.
- Understand the ten essential public health services.
- Describe the three levels of prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary).  
Describe the hierarchy of controls
- Describe the benefits of a multidisciplinary team of public health professionals working at the local level.
- Define necessary steps to develop and implement public health plans.

- Define the responsibilities and integrated relationships of public health with partners in public health preparedness/bioterrorism preparedness, and the veterinary practitioner in emergency management/public health preparedness. Define the benefits of a multidisciplinary team of public health professionals working at the local level.
- Define steps to conduct a risk assessment.
- Understand basics of risk communication and message mapping. Understand the public health communication interactions with diverse sectors of the public-at-large, the media, and government officials.

### Primary References

- Maxcy, Rosenau, Last: Public Health and Preventive Medicine, current edition by Robert B Wallace (Editor), McGraw-Hill Medical.
- Principles and Practice of Public Health Surveillance, current edition by Lisa M. Lee (Editor), Steven M. Teutsch (Editor), Stephen B. Thacker (Editor), Oxford University Press, USA.
- CDC Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication manual, available at: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/manual/index.asp>
- AVMA Policy Statements and Guidelines: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies>; information on government agencies and their specific branches/offices that utilize veterinarians; and, references to other resources, including specialty groups.
- NASPHV compendia: <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html>
- Public Health Law Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/phlp/>
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists: <https://www.cste.org/>
- Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University
  - Zoonotic Diseases: <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/zoonoses/>
  - Animal Diseases: <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/diseaseinfo/>
- Department of Homeland Security: <https://www.dhs.gov/>
- National Association of County and City Health Officials: <http://www.naccho.org/>
- American Public Health Association: <https://www.apha.org/>
- Public Health Accreditation Board website: <http://www.phaboard.org/>

### Supplementary References

- Lloyd F. Novick, Public Health Administration: Principles for Population-based Management, current edition Cynthia B. Morrow; Glen P. Mays (Editor), Jones and Bartlett Publishers.