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Topics

- Behavioural
- Health
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David Heymann is currently Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at LSHTM and Head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House in London.

From 2012 to March 2017, Heymann was chairman of Public Health England. Currently, he chairs the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for infectious hazards, the external advisory group to the WHO emergencies programme, which is leading the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For 22 years David Heymann was based at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva on secondment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during which time he rose from Chief of Research of the Global Programme on AIDS to Founding Director of the Programme on Emerging and other Communicable Diseases. Subsequently he was named Executive Director of the Communicable Diseases Cluster, a position from which he headed the global response to SARS. Consequently, he was later named Assistant Director for Health Security and the Director General's Representative for Polio Eradication.

Before joining WHO, David Heymann was based for 13 years in sub-Saharan Africa on assignment from CDC where he worked Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC and Malawi. During this period he participated in the response to the first, second and third outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in DRC. He also investigated human monkeypox outbreaks throughout central and western Africa, and supported ministries of health in field research aimed at better control of malaria, measles, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Additionally, Prior to joining CDC, Heymann worked in India for two years as a medical epidemiologist in the WHO smallpox eradication programme.

Heymann is also an elected fellow of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (US) and the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK), and has received seven different public health awards, including the Heinz Award on the Human Condition, that have provided funding for the establishment of an on-going mentorship programme at the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI).

David Heymann has published over 200 peer reviewed articles, commentaries and book chapters, and is the editor of the Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, a major global reference for public health and health protection. In recognition of his outstanding work he was appointed an honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2009 for service to global public health.

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