

**EVALUATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ZONOSIS OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHERS IN JATAÍ-GO, BRAZIL**

*(ANÁLISE DO CONHECIMENTO SOBRE ZONOSES DOS PROFESSORES DE ESCOLAS DA
REDE PÚBLICA DAS SÉRIES INICIAIS DO ENSINO FUNDAMENTAL DO MUNICÍPIO DE JATAÍ-
GO, BRASIL)*

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Zoonoses are diseases transmitted between animals and humans, directly or through a vector. According to the World Health Organization, at least half of the 1,700 agents known to infect humans have as a reservoir a vertebrate animal or an insect as a vector. This study assesses the knowledge of public school teachers of Jataí, GO regarding general zoonoses. A questionnaire containing questions about the definition of zoonoses; how the subject is approached in the classroom; type of materials used, and whether it was provided by the Secretaries of Education, among others. We interviewed 194 teachers from 21 schools (19 municipal and 02 state). About the definition of zoonoses, 61.8% (120/194) of the teachers said they knew, but only 3.3% (04/194) defined it correctly and completely; 30% (36/194) answered that they are diseases transmitted from animals to humans; 39.2% (47/194) mistook it for the Zoonosis Control Center of the City; 15.8% (19/194) responded that they knew, but did not elaborate; and, 11.7% (14/194) said it is related to illnesses. Regarding the approach on zoonoses in class, 84.5% (164/194) do not present this subject in the classroom. As for the educational materials used, 97.9% (190/194) said they did not receive material about the subject, and 2.1% (04/194) used videos and posters. For the need for restricting contact with the animals as a way to prevent the transmission of zoonoses, 12.4% (24/194) did not respond; the same number 12.4% (24/194) said it is not necessary; and, 75.2% (146/194) responded that restricting contact with animals is not the best way to avoid transmission of zoonoses. We conclude that the respondents have some difficulty in dealing with these issues due to lack of knowledge and appropriate material while basic guidelines given by professionals of the area are necessary to address these deficiencies.

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