

Three types of prevention

PRIMARY PREVENTION is protection of health by personal and communal efforts, such as enhancing nutritional status, immunising against communicable diseases, and eliminating environmental risks, such as contaminated drinking water. This is the task of public health.



SECONDARY PREVENTION is a set of measures available to individuals and communities for the early detection and prompt intervention to control disease and minimise disability, e.g., by the use of screening programs. This is the task of preventive medicine.



TERTIARY PREVENTION consists of measures aimed at softening the impact of long-term disease and disability by eliminating or reducing impairment, disability, and handicap; minimising suffering; and maximising potential years or useful life. This is the task of rehabilitation.

