Discussion Questions – Philosophy of Public Health

1. What responsibilities do **governments** have to protect public health? Where should the line be drawn between guidance and control?
2. Is it fair to restrict **individual** freedoms (e.g. smoking bans, vaccine mandates) to protect the health of others?
3. To what extent is health an individual **responsibility**, and to what extent is it shaped by social and environmental factors?
4. What does '**health equity**' mean to you? How should society address health inequalities across different groups?
5. Should public health focus only on **preventing** disease, or also on promoting broader well-being and flourishing?
6. Are there examples where public health measures have gone too far, or not far enough? What **lessons** can we learn from these?
7. How do ideas about **risk** influence public health decisions? Should governments act even when scientific certainty is incomplete?
8. In a diverse society, how should public health respect **cultural** differences while still promoting common standards for safety and well-being?