



## Climate Change is a Health Emergency

As leading public health, environmental health, patient advocacy, healthcare, nursing and medical organizations, we declare climate change a health emergency and call for immediate action to protect the public's health from the current and future impacts of climate change. Our organizations agree that:

- The health impacts of climate change demand **immediate action**.
- The **science is clear**; communities across the nation are **experiencing the health impacts** of climate change, including:
  - Enhanced conditions for **ozone** and **particulate** air pollution, linked to asthma attacks, cardiovascular disease and premature death;
  - **Extreme weather patterns**, such as **heat and severe storms** that destabilize communities and reduce access to essential healthcare;
  - **Wildfires** and dangerous wildfire smoke that spreads for thousands of miles;
  - Increased **vector-borne diseases** by expanding seasons and geographic ranges for ticks, mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects; and
  - Longer and more intense allergy seasons.
- Those **most at risk** – including children, seniors, pregnant women, low-income communities, some communities of color, people with disabilities and people with chronic disease – disproportionately bear the health impacts of climate change.

- Urgent action is needed to address climate change by **cleaning up** major sources of carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, including power plants, cars, trucks and other mobile sources. These policies must:
  - Adopt science-based targets to prevent climate change above 1.5 C;
  - Maximize benefits to health, reducing carbon and methane pollution at the same time that they reduce other dangerous emissions from polluting sources;
  - Ensure pollution is cleaned up in all communities, including those near polluting sources that have historically borne a disproportionate burden from air pollution; and
  - Leave the Clean Air Act fully in place. Any policy to address climate change must not weaken or delay the Clean Air Act or the authority that it gives EPA to reduce carbon emissions.
- Communities must also have the tools and resources **to identify, prepare for and adapt to the unique health impacts** of climate change in their communities.
  - Our public and environmental health systems must have adequate resources to protect communities by identifying, preparing for and responding to the health impacts of climate change.
  - We must ensure our community leaders can adequately protect those whose health is most at risk, and provide access to uninterrupted, quality healthcare during and after disasters.
- **We call on President Trump, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, and members of Congress** to heed the clear scientific evidence and take steps now to reduce pollution that drives climate change and harms health.
- The public health, environmental health, patient advocacy, healthcare, nursing and medical community are **united in our efforts to combat climate change and to protect the public's health from current and future climate impacts.**

### *Signed*

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American College of Physicians  
American Lung Association  
American Public Health Association  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Climate for Health  
Health Care Climate Council

Health Care Without Harm  
National Association of County & City  
Health Officials  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Medical Association  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Public Health Institute  
Trust for America's Health