



# Member Notice








November 12, 2024

## Climate Change and Your Health

NASA describes climate change as a change in the average conditions in a region over a long period of time. Humans cause these changes. Due to this, we are seeing increased temperatures and severe changes in extreme weather. Climate change causes multiple threats resulting in increased illnesses and death.

The effects of climate change include air and water pollution, extreme heat, increasing allergens, decreased food and water supply and a change in the spread of infectious diseases. View the chart below to see more climate impacts.

Examples of Climate Impacts on Human Health

	Climate Driver	Exposure	Health Outcome	Impact
 Extreme Heat	More frequent, severe, prolonged heat events	Elevated temperatures	Heat-related death and illness	Rising temperatures will lead to an increase in heat-related deaths and illnesses.
 Outdoor Air Quality	Increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns	Worsened air quality (ozone, particulate matter, and higher pollen counts)	Premature death, acute and chronic cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses	Rising temperatures and wildfires and decreasing precipitation will lead to increases in ozone and particulate matter, elevating the risks of cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses and death.
 Flooding	Rising sea level and more frequent or intense extreme precipitation, hurricanes, and storm surge events	Contaminated water, debris, and disruptions to essential infrastructure	Drowning, injuries, mental health consequences, gastrointestinal and other illness	Increased coastal and inland flooding exposes populations to a range of negative health impacts before, during, and after events.
 Vector-Borne Infection (Lyme Disease)	Changes in temperature extremes and seasonal weather patterns	Earlier and geographically expanded tick activity	Lyme disease	Ticks will show earlier seasonal activity and a generally northward range expansion, increasing risk of human exposure to Lyme disease-causing bacteria.
 Water-Related Infection ( <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> )	Rising sea surface temperature, changes in precipitation and runoff affecting coastal salinity	Recreational water or shellfish contaminated with <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>	<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> induced diarrhea & intestinal illness, wound and bloodstream infections, death	Increases in water temperatures will alter timing and location of <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> growth, increasing exposure and risk of water-borne illness.
 Food-Related Infection ( <i>Salmonella</i> )	Increases in temperature, humidity, and season length	Increased growth of pathogens, seasonal shifts in incidence of <i>Salmonella</i> exposure	<i>Salmonella</i> infection, gastrointestinal outbreaks	Rising temperatures increase <i>Salmonella</i> prevalence in food; longer seasons and warming winters increase risk of exposure and infection.
 Mental Health and Well-Being	Climate change impacts, especially extreme weather	Level of exposure to traumatic events, like disasters	Distress, grief, behavioral health disorders, social impacts, resilience	Changes in exposure to climate- or weather-related disasters cause or exacerbate stress and mental health consequences, with greater risk for certain populations.



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If you have any questions regarding the effects of climate change and your health, talk with your primary care provider. If you have questions about CountyCare covered services or benefits, please call Member Services at 312-864-8200/ 855-444-1661 (toll-free) / 711 (TDD/TTY).

ATTENTION: If you speak ENGLISH, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 312-864-8200 / 855-444-1661 (toll-free) / 711 (TTY). ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 312-864-8200 / 855-444-1661 / 711 (TTY). UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 312-864-8200 / 855-444-1661 / 711 (TTY). 注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 312-864-8200 / 855-444-1661 / 711. This document is also available in other languages. Please contact us at 312-864-8200 to request this document in another language.