

Bree Pediatric Asthma Workgroup 07.19.22
Environment Recommendations

Resources:

CDC: [Climate and Health Program](#)

AAFA: [Climate and Health](#)

APHA: [Climate Changes Allergies and Asthma](#)

Key Concerns:

- Pollution associated with the burning of fossil fuels is known to cause serious harm and loss in productivity, and resultant climate instability introduces a combination of catastrophic weather events and chronic disease impacts that create serious burdens on organizations providing health care.
- Climate change disproportionately harms underserved populations (for example, racial and ethnic minority groups, indigenous people, members of religious minorities, people with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, individuals with limited English proficiency, older adults, and rural populations)
- Climate change is a huge threat to respiratory health by directly causing or aggravating pre-existing respiratory diseases and increasing exposure to risk factors for respiratory diseases. Current data suggests that air pollution can cause asthma. Climate change increases water and air pollution which can cause and aggravate chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma.

Potential Recommendations:

Clinics:

- Review [Climate Action Handbook for Hospitals](#) and consider making policy changes.
- Aim for carbon neutrality by reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy, greener care delivery, and low- and zero-emission transportation. ([Commonwealth](#))
- Plan for climate mitigation infrastructure including adequate air filtration.
- Discuss air pollution mitigation when educating patient and family members about asthma management.

Schools:

- Adopt strategies to address air pollution and outdoor smoke. Refer to the Department of Health [Outdoor Air Quality and School Activities](#) guide for appropriate activities during times of poor outdoor air quality and smoke.
 - Consider addressing diesel bus idling
 - Consider aiming for carbon neutrality

Homes (Patients and Caregivers):

- Manage exposure to air pollution, especially during times of high wildfire smoke.
- Consider purchasing an air filter or working with a community organization to get an air filter.

Public Health:

- Provide education about climate change, air pollution, and risks to health
- Offer programs to connect patients and caregivers to air filters and other climate mitigation products.

Policy:

- Add a climate lens to health policy in the US ([Health Affairs](#))
- Fund programs and research to prepare for the health impacts of a changing climate ([CDC](#))