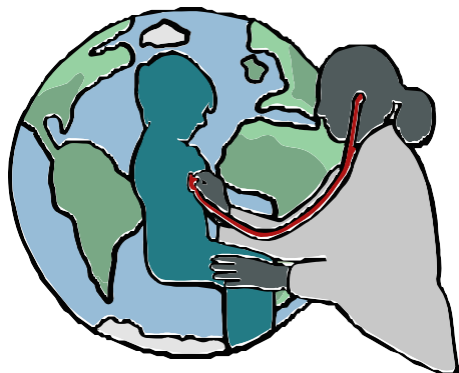




CLIMATE HEALTH AWARENESS

Helping patients understand
how the changing climate will
impact their health.



CIPC Climate Informed
Pediatric Care

Nurturing a better future for children

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLIMATE HEALTH AWARENESS

*“At first I thought it out of place, as
the doctor’s office is hardly a place I
expect to discuss climate change,
but on further introspection, it
seems like it’s a good place to
introduce the discussion.”*

-Pediatric Nurse

This pamphlet is intended to give pediatric
clinicians background knowledge on the
impact of the changing climate on health and
provide them with additional resources so that
they feel confident in providing climate-
informed care to patients.



CLIMATE-INFORMED PEDIATRIC CARE

The Climate-Informed Pediatric Care
Project (CIPC) delivers office-based
training and a climate-informed care tool
kit to pediatric clinics to assist them in
the integration of conversations about
climate and health into existing care
interactions.

Clinicians for Climate Action New Jersey
(CCANJ), a coalition of healthcare
professionals is committed to addressing
the health impacts of climate change.
CCANJ works to raise awareness about the
connection between environmental change
and patient health, and equips New Jersey
clinicians with the tools to educate,
advocate, and lead climate-informed
conversations in both clinical settings and
the broader community. Together, we aim
to promote climate solutions that protect
and improve health for all New Jersey
residents.

The CIPC project received funding from
the Irving Institute at Dartmouth College.

TOP CLIMATE HEALTH CONCERNS IN NH

Heat Exposure: Climate change is increasing the number of dangerously hot days in NJ.

What do I tell a patient?

- Monitor the heat index and limit outdoor activity when high.
- Hydrate and know how to access/create a cool indoor environment.



Ticks and Mosquitos: Climate change has expanded the range and seasonal duration of disease-carrying ticks and mosquitoes.

What do I tell a patient?

- Use insect repellant and wear long, tight-fitting clothing when outdoors.
- Check for ticks daily and know when to contact your provider if embedded ticks are found.



Poor Air Quality: Climate change prolongs wildfire seasons and contributes to air pollution.

What do I tell a patient?

- Can exacerbate underlying asthma or respiratory conditions.
- Know how to monitor AQ and limit outdoor exposure if poor.



Mental Health: The changing climate has direct and indirect effects on feelings of well-being, safety, and security.

What do I tell a patient?

- Discuss worries and fears related to weather and climate.
- Brainstorm steps to become informed about the health impacts of climate change and actions one can take to address climate change.



Severe Weather: Climate change is linked to an increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

What do I tell a patient?

- Have a disaster preparedness plan and emergency kit.
- Know local resources for shelter if needed, sign up for emergency alerts.



Flooding and Water-Related Illness: Floods can compromise water sanitation facilities causing floodwater to contain contaminants that can lead to illness.

What do I tell a patient?

- Discuss the importance of boil-water notices.
- Floodwater may contain sewage or agricultural waste that can cause diarrheal disease.



THE CIPC TOOL KIT

The CIPC tool kit provides a variety of tips and materials to simplify climate-informed care.

The CIPC tool kit includes:

- Child-friendly posters for waiting and exam room walls (English and Spanish).
- QR code on posters to a family resources page at the NJ Healthcare Workers for Climate Action website.
- Parent brochure with guidance for actions for the five most common climate-related health risks.
- Fun activity book for school-age children to do in the waiting room and take home with climate and health themed games.
- Template for a clinic policy related to climate and health and to sustainable practices within the healthcare system.
- Scripts for simple, brief conversations about the connections between the changing climate and health.
- Short patient-provider role-playing videos of typical conversations about climate and health.
- Guidance for the clinic or individual physicians in using the climate-informed care MOC Part II and Part IV modules.

See Philipsborn et al. "A Pediatrician's Guide to Climate-informed Primary care" for more information