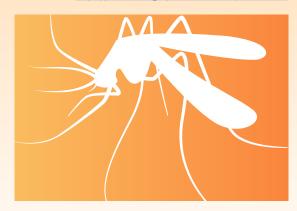
Talk to Your Patients about Climate Sensitive Infectious Diseases

Accessible link: https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/index.html

The United States is home to many different disease-carrying vectors (e.g. ticks, mosquitoes, and rodents) whose geographic distribution will be affected by rising temperatures and changes in precipitation. Some climate sensitive infectious diseases experiencing changes in geographic distributions and seasons include Lyme disease, West Nile fever, chikungunya fever, dengue fever, Zika virus disease, cryptococcosis, plague, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, and leptospirosis. Review this information and share with your patients.



Takeaways for Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, and Clinics

- Educate frontline providers on recognizing the symptoms of climate sensitive infectious diseases.
- Ensure clinics can easily report illnesses to local public health departments. This is key to preventing excess morbidity and mortality.^{16, 17, 18}
- Engage local communities in surveillance efforts, including reporting abnormal animal behavior and/or illnesses. This can aid in disease identification.¹⁹
- Develop and use testing protocols to track the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses. This practice can inform vector control programs and public health initiatives.^{20,21}

Advice for Your Patients

- 1. Educate patients on the signs and symptoms of climate sensitive infectious diseases, particularly those that are present or emerging in your area.
- 2. Talk to patients about how to reduce mosquito breeding areas: by emptying or covering containers or treating standing water that cannot be drained.²²
- 3. Advocate for mosquito and tick bite prevention. Patients can use EPA-registered insect repellents, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and install or repair screens on windows.²³

Populations at Greater Risk¹

- · Infants and children
- Pregnant women
- Adults over 65 years old
- People with chronic health conditions
- People with lower incomes
- People experiencing homelessness
- Rural populations
- Outdoor workers
- Athletes and outdoor recreationists



Climate Change Medical Factsheets Footnotes

Accessible link: https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/index.html

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