



May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month, and this month during the Year of Air Pollution & Health the focus is on how climate change impacts individuals with asthma and allergies. Worsening air quality and longer, more potent allergy seasons due to climate change threaten everyone's health, but those with asthma and allergies are at even greater risk.

Events in May:

- **Thurs., May 23, 5 p.m. ET: "Asthma & Climate Change: Tips All People with Asthma Should Know" webinar**

An online learning opportunity for patients with asthma and their caregivers to learn more about outdoor air quality, climate change and the impacts on asthma. [Register here](#).

- **Thurs., May 30, 4:30 p.m. ET : "Respiratory Impacts of Climate Change for Health Professionals" webinar**

Climate change poses special risks to lung health. You can learn more about those impacts at a webinar hosted by the American Lung Association where we'll cover the wide range of respiratory health threats: increased air

pollution; longer, more intense pollen seasons; extreme weather; and the challenges of evacuation and relocation. Join us to hear from experts on these impacts in this webinar specifically for public health and environmental health professionals. [Register here](#).

U.S. House Approves First Good Bill on Climate Change in Years

Earlier this month, a bipartisan majority of the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Climate Action Now Act, which would help ensure that the U.S. stays in the international Paris Climate Agreement. [Health organizations joined the Lung Association in support](#). In response to the successful vote, our President and CEO Harold Wimmer called the bill “an important first step toward comprehensive climate action to protect the health of all Americans.” Read his full statement [here](#).

Increased Funding for CDC Climate and Health Program Proposed

A key committee in the U.S. House of Representatives approved increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Climate and Health Program this month. Many thanks to the health organizations who signed on to our [letter](#) calling for the increased funding. We will keep you posted as it makes its way through the appropriations process.



TAKE ACTION

Sign Our Petition Urging Our Leaders to Take Action on Climate Change

The American Lung Association’s “State of the Air” 2019 shows that climate change is threatening our nation’s progress toward achieving healthy air for all.

We need national action to clean up power plants, oil and gas operations, and other sources of pollution to address climate change and reduce other emissions that threaten our health at the same time.

[Please sign this “State of the Air” 2019 petition to Congress and the Administration urging them to take action on climate change.](#)

1,000 Health Professionals Sign Mercury and Air Toxics Letter

Thank you to all the health professionals across the country who signed our letter opposing EPA’s proposal to undermine the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. Last month we submitted to EPA the [final letter, signed by more than 1,000 health professionals](#) from all 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. [We also turned in technical comments signed by 13 national health and medical organizations.](#) Stay tuned for additional opportunities to oppose this harmful proposal.



IN THE NEWS

“State of the Air” 2019 Report Garner Most Media Coverage Ever

The American Lung Association’s 20th anniversary “State of the Air” report found that 141.1 million people lived in counties with unhealthy levels of either ozone or particle pollution, an increase of more than 7.2 million Americans since the last annual report. The report directly linked climate change to worsening air pollution. Below you can read some of the many articles and TV, radio and digital coverage.

USAToday: [Bad air days on the rise: The nation’s most polluted city is ...](#)

CNN: [After years of progress, the number of Americans breathing polluted air is rising, report says](#)

Time: [More Than 141 Million Americans Are Breathing Unhealthy Air as Pollution Worsens](#)

The Guardian: [Millions more Americans breathing dirty air as planet warms, study finds](#)

Southern California News Group: [5-county greater Los Angeles area ranks as nation's worst for smog, again](#)

Lung Disease Has No Party Affiliation

An [Op Ed in the Sacramento Bee](#), "Pollution Doesn't Care About Your Politics," by former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senator Kevin De León calls on elected officials to take climate action before it is too late.

Don't Let a Killer Pollutant Loose

The Trump administration is moving to ease standards on a particularly deadly air contaminant, writes California air pollution researcher John Balmes, MD, in the [New York Times Opinion](#).

RESOURCES

- [Healthy Air](#)
- [Asthma, Allergies and Climate Change](#)
- [Take a Course](#)
- [Patient Support](#)
- [Lung HelpLine](#)
- [Tobacco QuitLine](#)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us

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DID YOU KNOW?

Due to devastating wildfires, Montana registered pollution levels that reached the worst category on the air quality index maroon, or "hazardous" — in this year's

State of the Air report. A [University of Montana study](#) also found that residents impacted by the devastating Rice Ridge Fire in western Montana in 2017 showed reduced lung function a full year after the fire. Learn more about how climate change is harming health in our [Each Breath blog](#).

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