**Health Impacts of Climate Change in Virginia**

**Temperature**
Summer heat is becoming more dangerous, putting Virginians at increasing risk of heat illness.  
Student athletes, the elderly and outdoor workers are at a particularly elevated risk.
*Over just four days in July 2020, 275 Virginians went to an Emergency Department or Urgent Care for heat illness. Virginia Department of Health*

**Lyme Disease**
Warmer winters and earlier springs create more favorable conditions for tick and mosquito survival, reproduction and disease transmission.  
*Between 2006-2017, reported cases of Lyme Disease in Virginia increased 4.6 fold, from 357-1652. Virginia Department of Health*
*Virginia counties with Lyme Disease carrying ticks increased from 12 in 1996 to 72 by 2016. Eisen et al., Journal of Medical Entomology 53 (2016)*

**Pollen**
Increasing pollen counts can increase asthma symptoms. Over the past 30 years in Richmond, the peak pollen count has increased by 35%.
*The number of individuals with asthma is on the rise. In 2016, there were 4,120 admissions of Virginians due to asthma (a rate of 4.9 per 10,000).*

**Harmful Algal Blooms**
Algal blooms in Virginia’s rivers are increasing due to warming water and pollution. These blooms can cause respiratory, skin and neurologic illness in people and pets.  
*Graph: Virginia Institute of Marine Science >*

**Climate Policy is Health Policy.**
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