

Climate and Health Resources: VIRGIN ISLANDS



Climate change poses risks to human health. [Already in the United States](#), we are seeing rising temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of some types of extreme weather, sea level rise, and other changes in weather and climate patterns. We are all vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change. However, these climate and health risks vary across the country.

Heat waves, heavy downpours, and sea level rise pose growing challenges to many aspects of life in the US Virgin Islands. Examples of risks and actions for Virgin Island residents include:

- **Rising temperatures and changing rain patterns will lead to more mosquitoes.** Mosquito bites can transmit diseases like West Nile virus and chikungunya to humans. [Learn how you can take action to protect against mosquitoes](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
 - **Prepare:** Keep window and door screens in good condition.
- **More intense hurricanes are becoming more common.** Extreme weather events can disrupt infrastructure (damage to roads, bridges, or utilities). [Learn how you can take action to manage infrastructure disruptions](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Check the news for tap water safety notices, such boiling water before use.
 - **Respond:** Avoid fallen power lines.
- **Sea level rise and storm surge threaten low-lying areas**, which are increasingly prone to flooding during tropical storms. Storm surge and flooding associated with hurricanes increases the risk of injury and disease. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Fill bathtubs, sinks, and plastic containers with clean water.
 - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

Learn more in the [USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment](#).

The examples of risks and actions provided in this document are not a comprehensive list. They provide users with illustrative impacts and resources for further information. Examples were selected based on relevance to the state or region and representation of a diversity of health threats. Selection does not imply ranking of severity of impacts nor prioritization of actions. The examples of impacts are based on "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment," available at <https://health2016.globalchange.gov>, as well as the National Climate Assessment at <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

RESOURCES FOR VIRGIN ISLANDS RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Virgin Islands	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast and the Caribbean	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 2	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Virgin Islands Department of Health	U.S. Virgin Islands
	Find Resources: Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency	U.S. Virgin Islands