

Health System Adaptation to Climate Change Health Threats

1. Is our health system prepared to protect us?
 - Public health
 - Health care
2. Some options legislators can consider

Public Health Adaptation

(State DOH, county, city, and tribal health depts.)

DOH Climate and Health Program

- Extensive achievements
- State-wide approach & strategic plan
- State/regional climate change health impacts
- Vulnerability assessments
- Training and tools for practitioners
- Public information
- Collaboration with emergency management, other agencies

Health Care Adaptation

(130 Hospitals, 17 CHCs, 367 nursing homes, 1206 assisted living facilities, 100s of independent practices)

- Main priority: Emergency preparedness for “abrupt-episodic” CC threats
 - “Harden” physical facilities, buttress supply chains, upgrade emergency plans
 - 8 regional health coalitions and interstate backup
- Less focus on “emerging-enduring” CC threats
 - “Severe” heat waves, “unprecedented, extreme rainfall”, PM, novel infectious diseases
 - Likely to drive demand for services to permanently higher plateaus

Some Options for Legislators' Consideration

- Consult with MN Department of Health
- Consult with public health and health care providers in your district
- Assess health system preparedness and resource needs
- Legislation
 - Strategic plan, incentives for adaptation, other...