



Volume 3

Most of us are caught up in the throes of preparation for COVID in Montana, preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. Even though COVID19 occupies our short-term, climate concerns remains in our souls.

We are happy to have 87 signed up to receive our newsletters now. Please forward the newsletter and encourage others to sign up with us.

[Sign up for newsletters](#)



Researching environmental effects on children: a focus on Paul Smith, DO

Dr. Smith, a Pediatric Pulmonologist/Intensivist, moved to Missoula 10 years ago, after a career at Case Western University/Rainbow Babies and Children's in Cleveland. His move led to a passion for clean air and slowing climate change. He is the Director of the Montana Pediatric Clinical Trials Site under the Environmental Influences On Childhood Health Outcomes (ECHO) program funded by the NIH. This grant is focused on risk and resilience and child health outcomes specifically in rural states. His appointment as Clinical Professor of Research in the School of Public and Community at The University of Montana allows him to participate in studies on the effects of wildfire smoke and particulate matter in fetal, childhood and adult diseases, an area UM in which that school is nationally recognized.

He, like most of us, is helping his hospital prepare for COVID. He loves our Montana scenery, backcountry skiing, biking, and is learning the cello.

[More on the ECHO programs](#)

September 1

New Allies with MontanaHPHC



Our Public Health colleagues are always on the front lines to protect us. We see you now, spending many extra hours on COVID planning in each of our communities, reporting cases, fielding calls, and being community heroes.

MPHA is also concerned about the health emergency created by climate change. We welcome Montana Public Health Association; they join the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Lung Association as allies in our work to create viable solutions to the climate crisis.



Significant damage to human health and climate change

BREAKING NEWS: Mileage Rollbacks

March 31, EPA rolled back the standards - the auto industry now will improve mileage 1.5%/year instead of 5. This will lead to 18,500 additional deaths from respiratory problems

by 2050 and millions of tons more carbon dioxide based on Environmental Defense Fund calculations using EPA data.

"This is the first time that an administration has pursued a policy that will result in net negative benefit for society and reduce fuel savings", according to a veteran EPA employee.

The MontanaHPHC board is saddened that such action to further harm human health would occur during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

Earth Day/Earth Month

50 years and counting



Plans and Alterations

Montana, Health, Climate, Earth Day 2020

Many great activities were underway for Montana's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Missoula had an entire Climate and Health Week, Helena and Bozeman and Billings were working on events. Most of these will occur later this year.

In the meantime, celebrate our outdoors on your own/with your family this month as we all live like pioneers, rather isolated on the plains and in the mountains. Be grateful that we are allowed outside while many others in the world are not.



Our personal strength

The Power of Green

In MontanaHPHC, we work to protect our greenspaces, because humankind needs them. Owning a plant, looking out a window at trees, and being out in green space has been shown to improve mood and mental health, shorten surgical recovery, decrease diabetes, improve birth outcomes and attention disorders, and more.

Our green spaces will help us as health care workers get through this COVID19 crisis. Then, we can continue to protect them. Not for just the sake of the planet, but for ourselves.

Members in the News

3/4/20 "Carbon Pricing from a Health Perspective", Billings event sponsored by the League of Women's Voters featuring Drs. Robert and Lori Byron

2/26/20 "Struggling to Breathe in Montana", A Montana mom tells her child's asthma story and gives thank for the Clean Air Act , [The Missoulian](#)

2/25/20 "Nursing and Climate Change", Julia Ryder speaks to MSU nursing students

2/14/20 "Climate and Health: Opportunity for Intervention", Drs. Rob and Lori Byron speak to Montana Tech environmental health classes



"Climate Solutions are Health Solutions"

The [3rd Annual Meeting](#) of the Medical Society on Climate and Health will be virtual. Register and join us May 17-18-19. The Consortium represents most of the major medical societies, representing over half of the physicians in the U.S.



Montana Climate Solutions Draft Plan

[Comment period is extended to April 24.](#) We encourage all Montanans , especially health care providers - to comment. Even just to say "Yeah. Thank You. Implement these!" All comments to date can be viewed online. Our hope is that many of these health-improving/livesaving actions will be implemented.



Montana Cities and Resiliency

Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Helena, Red Lodge, Whitefish now have resiliency plans. [Check them out!](#)



Montana Tribes and Climate

The Blackfeet Nation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and Fort Belknap all have [Resiliency Plans.](#)

Learning Corner

Prenatal air pollution harms brains. Prenatal exposure is linked to lower IQ; increased anxiety, depression, and attention disorders; and autism. [Read more here.](#)

Student Corner

How is COVID19 changing nursing curriculum in Montana?

-Classes online and inpatient/outpatient clinicals canceled across state for rest of semester

-Clinical experiences replaced with online simulations and COVID19 modules to arm upcoming nurses with the most up-to-date guidelines

-Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society local chapter is **recruiting** a health professional on climate to present during the online monthly meeting

The COVID-19 era is creating an outlet for positive change to health students and others:

-directs student learning towards gaps in current environmental health measures and legislation

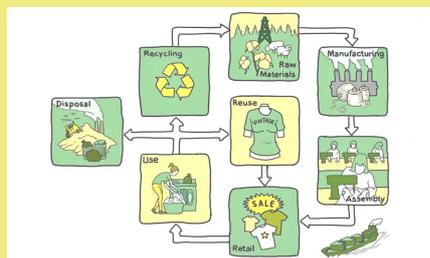
-allows student and public exploration of local and global environmental improvements and setbacks from COVID19 as it progresses

-opens discussion of sustainability related to current resource use in hospitals and ways to distribute needed supplies effectively

-provides potential for learning alongside professionals as they navigate these uncertain times and improve climate and human health for future pandemics

Please contact Sarah at snlorch@gmail.com or (970) 389-4758 if you have interest in speaking with students

"If you look the right way, you can see the whole world as a garden"- Frances Burnett



Personal Action

Reduce your "Fashion Footprint"

5% of global GHG emissions come from the fashion industry. [Take the quiz](#) to see how you compare with others!

- Love what you have
- Choose quality over quantity
- Shop secondhand
- Buy local
- Don't impulse buy
- Have a swap party!

Take the Quiz!

Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

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