

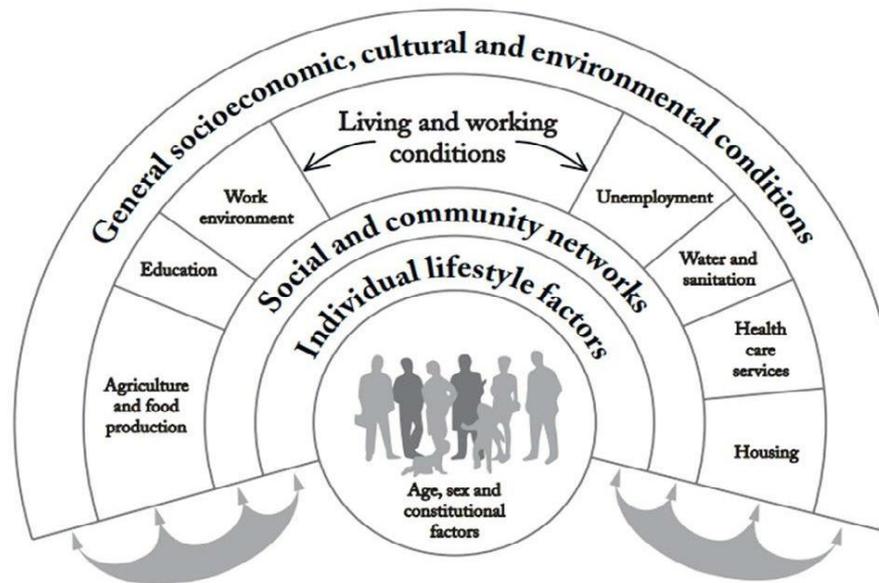
Healthy Climate Prescription Letter



[Link to sign here](#)

It was scientifically clear and understood by our forefathers, but seemingly society has to relearn the fact that environmental health and the healthcare of human populations are inseparable. Covid has been a harsh demonstration of the vulnerability of our physical and mental health, our healthcare systems and our socio economic systems.

An increased risk of global pandemics is just one of the outcomes of climate change and biodiversity collapse. Taking Covid as an example, we can map impacts directly to the determinants of health.



Source: [Chapter 6: wider determinants of health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Insecurity of food supply, schools colleges and universities shut, businesses closed, jobs lost, shortages of chemicals have led to water processing plants having to release untreated sewage into river systems, health care services a have been pushed to breaking point, house building and maintenance interrupted. All these factors impact on physical and mental health and of course are over and above the impacts of you or a loved one suffering a Covid infection.

In the run up to the UN Climate Conference in November - [COP26](#) and one year on from the launch of the [NHS Net Zero Carbon commitments](#), it is an important time to reflect on progress made (look out for articles in the bulletin and social media over the coming weeks) but also to do our part to encourage our governments to be ambitious in their efforts to mitigate climate change.

COP26 is being described by the scientific community as the best last hope to avoid exceeding 1.5°C of Global Warming. The latest [meta studies](#) show global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades. A 1.5°C increase is not a safe outcome but the risks from 2°C increase or higher are [significantly greater](#).

It is vitally important that international governments take the opportunity to put policies in place to mitigate climate change. The UK government has presidency of COP26 and it is being hosted in Glasgow. Please help send a clear message to our government that health care workers are calling for action.

I invite staff to co-sign “The Healthy Climate Prescription letter”. It is supported by the [Global Climate and Health Alliance](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) in service of the medical and health community around the world.

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Thank you.

Stuart Lane - Sustainability and Carbon Manager UHD