

RISK COMMUNICATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MAYOR - HECTOR

-Depending on the specific situation the opening statement will be slightly altered towards it.

If the Risk communication is climate change in general and how it affects or has been affecting a coastal city.

- Address the issues that concern our city the most increased cases of flooding and the damage it brings to the infrastructure of the city and the people.
- Flooding damage like mold and the concerns of a healthy living area for all.
- Heat waves and the health effects of heat and ways to reduce its effects.
- Reducing the emissions, how the city plans to reduce its effect on the global issue
 - Fuel efficient vehicles for public transportation
 - Conducting frequent inspections on local factories to ensure compliance with EPA standards.
 - Programs aimed at recycling
 - Reducing the water and energy waste
- When addressing the issue of flooding:
 - The implementation of escape route programs
 - Stricter zoning policies for housing near the coast or in known flooding zones.
 - Upgrade in sewer and drain systems specially before hurricane season starts.
 - Emergency preparedness by working with the city's emergency responders to train personnel on evacuation and the acquisition of a fleet of vehicles to aid in such labors.

Coastal Flooding document from CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/pubs/CoastalFloodingClimateChangeandYourHealth-508.pdf>

Climate Change and its Health Effects CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm>

APHA Climate Change Issues and Resources

<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/climate-change>

DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FOR NORFOLK - INDIRA

One of the major effects of climate change in Norfolk is flooding.

As the Public Health Director, it is my mission to set and deliver goals to protect the public.

Top 3

Risk Communication - informing the public about the risk.

Action Plan on Sustainability - preparing emergency response teams,

Continuous research on risk especially with vulnerable populations and high risk communities.

1. **Inform the public** - High risk neighborhoods need to know the threat from rising water to their homes. Social media, Schools, News, Radio, etc.
2. **Community Health Assessments** - monitor health indicators and identify hazards
3. **Mobilizing community partnerships** - involve schools and communities. Partner with local health departments.
4. **Emergency Preparedness** - training and preparing for the demand of services and ensuring emergency response is equipped to respond.
5. **Research**- Continue to identify neighborhoods that are at high risk - surveillance programs to monitor flood levels and frequency of events.
6. Use the research to provide the best recommendations to policy makers for a long term action plan.

My short term goal is to identify hazards within communities that are high risk. My long term goal is to protect the public and retain sustainability of human life during the rise of sea water.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER - HIRA

60-second speech: Good Evening, My name is Dr. HN, and I am the healthcare provider to speak about climate change. What we are experiencing right now is more than climate change, it affects our daily lives. This is not an issue that can be solved overnight, it is an ongoing PH issue that will take time to reverse.

Climate change and human health are connected.

- It affects the vulnerable populations -- poor, people of color, pregnant women, first responders, elderly, already ill, unemployed, uninsured, flood-prone neighborhoods

- Heatwave, fires, floods, and hurricanes contribute to non-communicable and chronic disease like asthma, pneumonia, heart disease, COPD, mosquito-borne illnesses, heat stress (mental illness, violence, aggression), food safety, and farms

It is my responsibility to be a resource to strengthen and inform your voice as a trusted health professional on climate change, health, and equity.

As a healthcare provider, I plan to tackle the climate crisis and patient health by:

- **EDUCATION:** teach patients how climatic changes worsen their medical conditions (e.g. longer and worse pollen season, air pollution (smog, dust storms) = respiratory problems & lung cancer, high heat = reduced effectiveness of EpiPens)
- **HEALTH MANAGEMENT:** Advise protective behaviors to minimize the effects of climate change.
 - Lyme disease and West NV are more prominent in hotter regions = reduce your time outside, wear protective clothing
 - Diet - eat less meat and replace with protein-rich vegetables like beans, leafy greens
 - Sustainable Transportation - Walk or bike more
- **ADVOCACY:** Talk to policymakers and social justice leaders to build/create/transform the infrastructure that has up-to-date standards and codes (e.g. solar panels, local wind energy) that reduce heat islands, cleaner drinking water
- **ADAPTATION:** More PH training, effective surveillance and emergency response systems, and sustainable prevention and control programs, provide equity where it is needed

Adapting to climate change will require more than financial resources, technology, and public health infrastructure. Education, awareness-raising, and the creation of legal frameworks, institutions, and an environment that enables people to make well-informed, long-term, sustainable decisions are all needed.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5922192/>

<https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/public-health-adaptation-strategies-climate-change>

<https://www.who.int/globalchange/summary/en/index10.html>

<https://medium.com/@UrbanResilience/9-questions-on-climate-change-and-health-every-candidate-should-answer-a28be6b2bf6f>

DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL - PRIYANKA

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/hbr.org/amp/2019/09/how-health-systems-are-meeting-the-challenge-of-climate-change>

“As with any business initiative, taking action on climate change starts with the mission. For health systems, climate change directly impacts the health of patients and communities. We are only as healthy as the environment in which we live, and as climate change worsens, more and more people face the health consequences of wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and forced migration globally from failed crops, droughts, and resulting political unrest.”

It is in my control how my hospital operates and how it will help the community especially times like this

As a Director of Hospitals of the city, patient care is the priority but at the same time managing the funding for the right way. There are multiple ways that hospitals in this city can fight climate change:

1. To reduce carbon emissions and energy waste
 - **Changing and improving light bulbs** - provides better quality of lighting - reduces the total time used to change bulbs as LED bulbs last longer. It saves millions of dollars per year.
 - **Install medical grade software to put computers on sleep while not in use** - saves energy and money spent on utilities.
 - **Reduce air circulation system** - to reduce the infection rate in the patient admitted in the hospital including the staff, air needs to be exchanged per hour. This can be reduced by installing the sensor monitoring thermostat - air is shut off when room is vacant.
2. **Climate-resilient infrastructure**
 - withstand future weather-related disasters. Higher walls and proper evacuation. Have first patient floor at least 30 inches above the flood mark to reduce the damage and protect patients from evacuation and infection that flood water brings
 - Implant solar panels on the roof to support the electric use.
 - Rooftop farm - reduce carbon footprint and support the hospital pantry
 - Building with heavy insulation and large window to provide plenty of natural sunlight
3. **Create sustainability project** - Partner with the power suppliers to establish long term power purchasing contracts by initiating windmill farms or installing solar panels. It is a green revolving fund - saves money by investing in sustainable energy saving projects.

Partner with other local government agencies to chip in - the electricity produced by windmill and solar panels can be utilized by these agencies as their backup - this initiative can help earn government grants.

4. **Create a hazard mitigation plan** - new heat and power utility plant at an elevation to avoid flooding and fire hazards. Have enough backup on-site generators. Control the patient in and out flow.
5. Provide training sessions to the caregivers and response team - have enough resources and supplies to fight the climate change disaster - review the hazard plan prior to the disaster (if predicted) and operate the facilities accordingly.
6. Have the tabletop exercise to improve the hazard plan and emergency preparedness

Potential Resources to save you guys time:

<https://www.norfolk.gov/DocumentCenter/View/56462/R-2?bidId=>

<https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/series-factsheet-climatechange-greenriver-oct2017.pdf>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2020/04/13/after-decades-waterfront-living-climate-change-is-forcing-communities-plan-their-retreat-coasts/?arc404=true>

<https://www.who.int/globalchange/summary/en/index10.html>

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