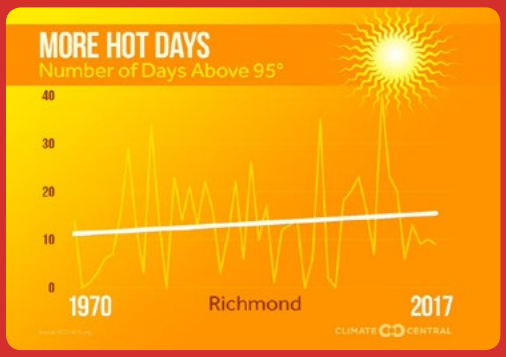
# Health Impacts of Climate Change in Virginia

Summer heat is becoming more oppressive, putting Virginians at increasing risk of heat illness.

Student athletes, the elderly and outdoor workers are at particularly elevated risk.



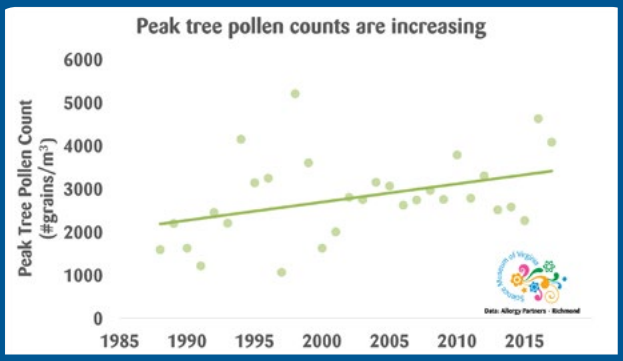

**Between May and August of 2016, over 1,700 Virginians went to the ER for heat-related illness.**

Virginia Department of Health

**Vibrio infections are on rise.** These bacteria cause gastrointestinal and skin infections. They thrive in warm seawater and can be transmitted through contaminated shellfish. As ocean temperatures have increased, so has the incidence of these infections.

**Virginia has seen more than a 2.6-fold increase since the year 2000.** Between 2000-2004, there was an average of only 18.4 cases/year. Between 2013-2017 there was an average of 48 cases/year.

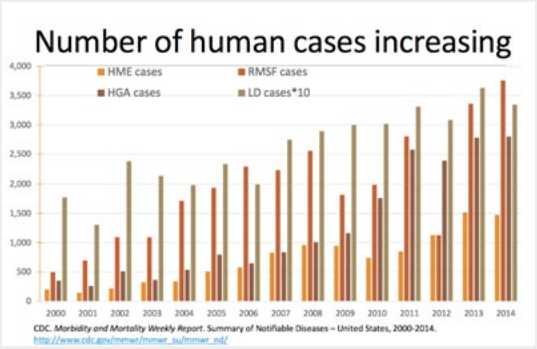
Tree pollen season peaks **one week earlier** now in Richmond than in the late 1980s.




Over the past 30 years in Richmond, the peak tree pollen count has increased by over 50%. Higher tree pollen increases Emergency Department and Urgent Care visits for allergies.

Science Museum of Virginia Data
Allergy Partners-Richmond

Warmer winters and earlier springs create more favorable conditions for tick and mosquito survival, reproduction and disease transmission.




Between 2006-2017 in Virginia, reported cases of Lyme Disease increased **4.6-fold** (357 to 1652 ), Spotted fever rickettsiosis including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever increased **2.7-fold** (114 to 307) and Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis increased **16.75-fold** (8 to 134).

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