

**Toolkit for sharing Open Letter  
from America's doctors and nurses  
to America's patients**

- [This open letter](#) is addressed “Dear Patient” because **each and every American is a patient** at one time or another. As physicians, nurses, advanced practitioners, and students in these fields, **we are the most trusted voices** in America. Our patients must hear from us about the health harms of climate change.
- The letter may be **signed by any current or retired physician or nurse or any medical or nursing student** in the U.S.
- With this letter, we are **using our trusted health voices** to send the message to our patients and the public that **climate change is a health emergency** and our call for **leaders who will take climate action** to protect health.
- **Use your voice to help spread the word!** Please ask the doctors and nurses in your network to **sign the letter**.
- The letter is still being circulated for signing. **Our goal is to reach 10,000 signatures before sharing it with the media**, in the hopes of centering attention on climate change and health and the urgent need for elected officials who will take climate action. The letter, including the list of signers, will be shared with the media in mid-October. However, it will remain open for signing beyond that time.
- Below are some **tips and templates to help make it easy**: [a video explainer](#), [a sample email](#), [sample phone text](#), and [sample social media post](#).

**Tools for sharing with potential signers:**

- Here is a 7 minute [video explainer](#) about the project.
- [Sample e-mail](#) to share with health professional organizations or newsletters:

Subject line suggestion:

Time Sensitive: SIGNATURE REQUESTED: letter about climate change and health

Body of e-mail:

> If you are writing to a colleague you know, start with a personal sentence or two, eg:

Hi [colleague's name],

I am writing with a time sensitive request. I am asking that you sign this [open letter to America's patients](#) from medical professionals about climate change and health. Then contact doctors, PAs, NPs, nurses, and medical or nursing students in your network (current or retired) asking them to sign and share. Details are explained below. For the e-mails you send, you may copy and paste the text below, and sign with your own name. If you are able to speak with a few people personally, that really helps. There are more ideas and templates in this [toolkit](#).

Thank you!

XXXX Your name and phone number

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> Then include this, more generic e-mail below the personal opener. Alternatively, you may use only this one and skip the opener:

Dear [colleague's name],

I hope this email finds you safe and well. As the climate and coronavirus crises collide, Americans will head to the polls this November with health on the top of their minds.

**Please join your medical colleagues in using your trusted voice to [sign this open letter](#) to America's patients.** It states that we have a duty to warn them that climate change is a health emergency. In order to protect their own and their children's health, we need **leaders who will implement policies to solve the climate crisis**. The letter is **non-partisan** and does not support particular candidates. Any **U.S. physician, nurse, advanced practitioner, or student** in these fields may sign (practicing, student, or retired).

We aim to **publish this important message in a national, centrist media outlet** by mid October, in hopes of reaching as many patients as possible about the critical connection between their health, climate, and choosing leaders who prioritize climate action to protect health. In order for this letter **to attract media attention, we need more than 10,000 signatures** by the second week of October.

**Please sign and share now** with US health professionals in your networks. **Do share** via emails, list-serves, social media, but please **do NOT** share with the media, as we plan an exclusive press release.

The climate crisis is creating a health emergency. Our patients and communities must hear from us. Please read and sign this [open letter to America's patients](#), then forward it widely.

Sincerely,

XXXX your name and phone number

Supporting the Open Letter to America's Patients coalition:  
Climate Health Now, Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, Health Care Without Harm, Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment, American Medical Students Association , PSR and more

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• **Sample phone text:**

Hi XXX. Asking for your help: Please use your voice as a health professional and co-sign this non-partisan, open letter to America's patients. It says we need leaders who will implement policies to solve the climate crisis and protect our health. Then pass it on to colleagues. Thank you!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1PRy4jFITLF8CIUwN8vD8AK\\_a79Xqc3LoT3P\\_tjHHkdxZQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1PRy4jFITLF8CIUwN8vD8AK_a79Xqc3LoT3P_tjHHkdxZQ/viewform)

• **Sample post for Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn:**

📣 Current, future & retired doctors, nurses & students: Co-sign this open letter to America's patients. It says we need leaders who will act to solve the climate crisis & protect our health -> pls pass it on to colleagues.

#MedTwitter

<https://forms.gle/jSDYJtu2frVhNH9H9>

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Lastly, here is a **QR code** that links to the Dear Patients Letter google sign-on form, in case it is helpful in facilitating sharing:

