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Health groups: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's climate action will protect public health

LANSING – The **Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America – Michigan Chapter** and **MI Air MI Health** today applauded the public health goals Gov. Gretchen Whitmer set forth in her recent executive order on climate.

“The same dangerous pollution that causes climate change is having serious impacts on asthma and allergy sufferers across Michigan,” said **Kathleen Slonager**, RN, AE-C, CCH and executive director of AAFA – Michigan Chapter. “Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s executive actions draw much needed attention to the urgent climate crisis, and her innovative plan will help reduce dangerous pollution and save lives.”

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, our state’s asthma rate is higher than the national average, and three to four times higher in Michigan’s most polluted zip codes. Approximately 10% of Michigan adults have asthma. COVID-19 exacerbates these conditions, leading to irreparable damage or death, according to [research from Harvard University](#).

“The health of many Michiganders has suffered from poor air quality and the impacts of climate change for far too long and this will only worsen if no action is taken. Additionally, recent research has suggested that people living in poor air quality regions are suffering from increased mortality due to COVID-19,” said **Kindra Weid**, RN and coalition coordinator of **MI Air MI Health**, “Gov. Whitmer’s plan to make the state carbon neutral is critical to combating climate change, improving air quality and mitigating the devastation of this current public health crisis. Acting on climate now will be critical to saving lives in the future.”

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