

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH SCAN

## WITH COVID-19 SECTIONS

### VOL 4 (11) NOVEMBER 2020



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#### *Environmental Health (EH) Research Scan: Aims and Scope*

NCCEH's EH Research Scan aims to expand awareness of topics in environmental health, in line with NCCEH's vision to be the indispensable online resource for environmental health practitioners and policy-makers across Canada. "We focus on health risks associated with the physical environment and identify evidence-based interventions to mitigate those risks." This review is not official or peer reviewed. It does not cover all research, news, and information, and NCCEH is not responsible for the accuracy of the content from media or databases. How to access the items? Click on the link related to each entry and it should take you to the item. Not all links are open access; some are abstract links where paid journal subscription is required. **COVID-19 Publications** are listed in the sections above and there are also **COVID-19 Additional Topics** at the end of this issue.

## EDITOR PICKS

### High-humidity environments and the risk of COVID-19 transmission [field inquiry]

Angela Eykelbosh, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

*“Based on the available data, high relative humidity and high temperature appear to increase airborne mass deposition and decrease the viability of virus in both airborne particles and on surfaces. However...” more*



### A rapid review of disinfectant chemical exposures and health effects during COVID-19 pandemic [field inquiry]

Tina Chen, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

*“This document is a rapid review of literature to answer the following questions:*

- *What are the potential health effects associated with exposure to disinfectants?*
- *Are there safer substitutions for common disinfectants that have lower risks of long-term adverse health effects?”*



### Masking during the pandemic – updated [guidance document]

Juliette O’Keeffe, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

*“The purpose of this document is to outline the most commonly used types of masks, their effectiveness in providing protection against pathogenic hazards based on a rapid review of the literature, and to list key considerations for the safe use.”*



### Radon [topic page]

Anne-Marie Nicol, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

*“Radon gas is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that is released during the decay of uranium in rocks and soils. Radon levels outdoors are generally low, but radon gas indoors poses more of a problem....” more*



### Health Resources for the COVID-19 Pandemic – updated [topic page]

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

*NCCEH has prepared a specially curated topic page on Covid-19. Visit <http://www.ncceh.ca/environmental-health-canada/ncceh-health-agency-project/desc>*

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH SCAN

### SELECTED STAFF PUBLICATIONS

#### NCCEH

1. Chen T. **A rapid review of disinfectant chemical exposures and health effects during COVID-19 pandemic** [field inquiry]. Vancouver, BC: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2020 10 26 Oct 26. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/documents/field-inquiry/rapid-review-disinfectant-chemical-exposures-and-health-effects-during>.
2. Eykelbosh A. **High-humidity environments and the risk of COVID-19 transmission** [field inquiry]. Vancouver, BC: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2020 10 16 Oct 16. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/documents/field-inquiry/high-humidity-environments-and-risk-covid-19-transmission>.
3. Hutchison S, Nicol A-M, Hubick J. **Connecting the dots to reduce radon risk** [webinar]. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Public Health Association; 2020 Nov 3. Available from: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jV5z1RmLTKCc7ZCFqO1Utw?utm\\_source=CPHA+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=f3b03738db-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_09\\_30\\_11\\_44\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5a537eba78-f3b03738db-164529259](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jV5z1RmLTKCc7ZCFqO1Utw?utm_source=CPHA+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=f3b03738db-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_30_11_44_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5a537eba78-f3b03738db-164529259).
4. \*Labbe S. **Study: High levels of radon gas found in 2% of Coquitlam homes**. TriCity News. 2020 Nov 9. Available from: <https://www.tricitynews.com/news/study-high-levels-of-radon-gas-found-in-2-of-coquitlam-homes-1.24235958>. [\*Quotes from Anne-Marie Nicol, NCCEH KT scientist included]
5. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. **October research scan with COVID-19 sections** [blog]. Vancouver, BC: NCCEH; 2020 10 20 Oct 20. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/content/blog/october-research-scan-covid-19-sections>.
6. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. **NCCEH eNews** (October 2020) : High-humidity Environments and the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission. Vancouver, BC: NCCEH; 2020 10 30 Oct. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/y23kkbwg>.
7. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. **Radon** [topic page]. Vancouver, BC: NCCEH; 2020 11 05 Nov. Available from: <http://www.ncceh.ca/environmental-health-in-canada/health-agency-projects/radon>.

### INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1. Caron-Beaudoin É, Ayotte P, Blanchette C, Muckle G, Avard E, Ricard S, et al. **Perfluoroalkyl acids in pregnant women from Nunavik (Quebec, Canada): Trends in exposure and associations with country foods consumption**. Environ Int. 2020 2020/12/01/;145:106169. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412020321243>.
2. Moriarity RJ, Wilton MJ, Liberda EN, Tsuji LJS, Peltier RE. **Wood smoke black carbon from Indigenous traditional cultural activities in a subarctic Cree community**. Int J Circumpolar Health. 2020;79(1):1811517. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/22423982.2020.1811517>.
3. National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools, National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. Rapid Review: **What factors may help protect Indigenous peoples and communities in**

- Canada and internationally from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts?** Hamilton, ON: McMaster University; 2020 Oct 16. Available from: <https://www.nccmt.ca/knowledge-repositories/covid-19-rapidevidence-service>.
4. Northwest Territories Health and Social Services. **COVID-19 - Why the North is different.** Whitehorse, NT: Government of the Northwest Territories; 2020. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KfApiZjTUg&feature=youtu.be>.
  5. Rall K, LaFortune R, Tellez-Chavez L, Deif F, McLeod C, Gazendam I. **“My fear is losing everything” The Climate Crisis and First Nations’ Right to Food in Canada.** New York, NY: Human Rights Watch; 2020 Oct 21. Available from: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/21/my-fear-losing-everything/climate-crisis-and-first-nations-right-food-canada>.
  6. State of Global Air. **State of Global Air 2020.** Boston, MA: Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation’s (IHME’s) Global Burden of Disease; 2020. Available from: <https://www.stateofglobalair.org/>.
  7. Statistics Canada. **Food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic,** May 2020. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada; 2020 Jun 24. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00039-eng.pdf?st=095U47of>.
  8. Tarasuk V, Mitchell A. **Household food insecurity in Canada, 2017-18. Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity.** Toronto, ON: PROOF, Food Insecurity Policy Research; 2020. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>.
  9. Waldner CL, Alimezelli HT, McLeod L, Zagozewski R, Bradford L. **Self-reported effects of water on health in First Nations Communities in Saskatchewan, Canada: Results from Community-Based Participatory Research.** Environmental Health Insights. 2020;11(1). Available from: <https://bioone.org/journals/Environmental-Health-Insights/volume-11/issue-1/1178630217690193/Self-reported-Effects-of-Water-on-Health-in-First-Nations/10.1177/1178630217690193.pdf>.
  10. Young TK, Broderstad AR, Sumarokov YA, Bjerregaard P. **Disparities amidst plenty: a health portrait of Indigenous peoples in circumpolar regions.** Int J Circumpolar Health. 2020;79(1):1805254. Available from: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080%2F22423982.2020.1805254>.

## AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

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## BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

### BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1. Choe E, Kenyon A, Sharp L. **Designing blue green infrastructure (BGI) for water management, human health, and wellbeing: summary of evidence and principles for design.** UK: University of Sheffield; 2020 Sep. Available from: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/news/designing-blue-green-infrastructure-water-management-human-health-and-wellbeing>.

2. Diabetes Canada. **The built environment and diabetes - a position statement.** Ottawa, ON: Diabetes Canada; 2020 Oct. Available from: [https://www.diabetes.ca/DiabetesCanadaWebsite/media/Advocacy-and-Policy/The-Built-Environment-and-Diabetes-Position-Statement\\_October-2020.pdf](https://www.diabetes.ca/DiabetesCanadaWebsite/media/Advocacy-and-Policy/The-Built-Environment-and-Diabetes-Position-Statement_October-2020.pdf).
3. Dixon T. **What impacts are emerging from Covid-19 for urban futures?** London, UK: Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine; 2020 Jun 10. Available from: <https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/what-impacts-are-emerging-from-covid-19-for-urban-futures/>.
4. Sharifi A, Khavarian-Garmsir AR. **The COVID-19 pandemic: Impacts on cities and major lessons for urban planning, design, and management.** *Sci Total Environ.* 2020;749:142391-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7499053/>.
5. US Department of Homeland Security. **How Does the Environment Impact COVID-19?** Washington, DC: US Homeland Security; 2020 Oct 29. Available from: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2020/10/29/feature-article-how-does-environment-impact-covid-19>.
6. Young DR, Craddock AL, Eyster AA, Fenton M, Pedroso M, Sallis JF, et al. **Creating Built Environments That Expand Active Transportation and Active Living Across the United States: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association.** *Circulation.* 2020;142(11):e167-e83. Available from: <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000878>

## CHEMICAL AGENTS – METALS, GENERAL

1. Dodson RE, Boronow KE, Susmann H, Udesky JO, Rodgers KM, Weller D, et al. **Consumer behavior and exposure to parabens, bisphenols, triclosan, dichlorophenols, and benzophenone-3: Results from a crowdsourced biomonitoring study.** *Int J Hyg Environ Health.* 2020/09/01/;230:113624. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1438463920305708>.
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3. Li D, Shi Y, Yang L, Xiao L, Kehoe DK, Gun'ko YK, et al. **Microplastic release from the degradation of polypropylene feeding bottles during infant formula preparation.** *Nature Food.* 2020/10/19. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-00171-y>.
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5. Young AS, Hauser R, James-Todd TM, Coull BA, Zhu H, Kannan K, et al. **Impact of “healthier” materials interventions on dust concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, and organophosphate esters.** *Environ Int.* 2020/10/19/:106151. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412020321061>.

## CHEMICAL AGENTS – PESTICIDES

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## CHEMICAL AGENTS – SHALE GAS

### CHILDREN’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1. Alberta Health Services. **Back to school during COVID-19**. Edmonton, AB: Government of Alberta; 2020. Available from: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17212.aspx>.
2. Bernhard van Leer Foundation. **Urban 95 - If you could experience the city from 95cm - the height of a 3-year-old - what would you change?** The Netherlands: Bernhard van Leer Foundation; 2020 Aug. Available from: <https://bernardvanleer.org/solutions/urban95/>.
3. Bigambo FM, Sun H, Yan W, Wu D, Xia Y, Wang X, et al. **Association between phenols exposure and earlier puberty in children: A systematic review and meta-analysis**. *Environ Res*. 2020;190:110056. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2020.110056>.
4. Carsley S, Prowse R, Richmond SA, Manson H, Moloughney BW. **Supporting public health practice in healthy growth and development in the Province of Ontario, Canada**. *Public Health Nurs*. 2020;37(3):412-21. Available from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/phn.12719>.
5. Global Designing Cities Initiative - NACTO. **Designing Streets for Kids**. New York, NY: National Association of City Transportation Officials; 2020 Aug. Available from: <https://globaldesigningcities.org/publication/designing-streets-for-kids/>.
6. Guth M, Pollock T, Fisher M, Arbuckle TE, Bouchard MF. **Concentrations of urinary parabens and reproductive hormones in girls 6-17 years living in Canada**. *Int J Hyg Environ Health*. 2020;231:113633. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheh.2020.113633>.
7. Loades ME, Chatburn E, Higson-Sweeney N, Reynolds S, Shafran R, Brigden A, et al. **Rapid Systematic Review: The Impact of Social Isolation and Loneliness on the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in the Context of COVID-19**. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2020 Nov;59(11):1218-39 e3. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32504808>.
8. Ravens-Sieberer U, Kaman A, Otto C, Erhart M, Devine J, Schlack R. **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Quality of Life and Mental Health in Children and Adolescents**. SSRN. 2020 Oct. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3721508>.
9. Rees N, Fuller R. **The Toxic Truth: Children’s Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Future Potential**. New York, NY: UNICEF and Pure Earth; 2020 Jul. Available from: <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/The-toxic-truth-children%E2%80%99s-exposure-to-lead-pollution-2020.pdf>.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Awuor L, Meldrum R, Liberda EN. **Institutional Engagement Practices as Barriers to Public Health Capacity in Climate Change Policy Discourse: Lessons from the Canadian Province of Ontario**. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2020;17(17):6338. Available from: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/17/6338>.
2. Chattha S. **Government of Ontario Launches Climate Change Impact Assessment**. Toronto, ON: Water Canada; 2020 Aug 17. Available from: <https://www.watercanada.net/government-of-ontario-launches-climate-change-impact-assessment/>.

3. Dannenberg AL, Rogerson B, Rudolph L. **Optimizing the health benefits of climate change policies using health impact assessment.** *J Public Health Policy.* 2020 Jun;41(2):139-54. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31481736>.
4. Government of Canada. **Strategic Assessment of Climate Change.** Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2020 Oct. Available from: <https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca/16736/widgets/65686/documents/40846>.
5. Government of Ontario. **Ontario Launches First-Ever Climate Change Impact Assessment.** Toronto, ON: Government of Ontario; 2020 Aug 14. Available from: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/57998/ontario-launches-first-ever-climate-change-impact-assessment>.
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7. Kaufmann R. **Climate change and the law. Part one – an introduction to mitigation in Alberta.** Edmonton, AB: Environmental Law Centre (Alberta) Society; 2019 Mar. Available from: <https://elc.ab.ca/climate-change-and-the-law-an-introduction-to-climate-change-mitigation-in-alberta/>.

## COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

See **Covid 19 subsections** in this issue and in the [COVID-19 Additional Topics and Guidance](#) section at the end of this issue (e.g., Cleaning, Temperature Scanning)

## DRINKING WATER

1. Buajitti E, Fazio X, Lewis JA, Rosella LC. **Association between lead in school drinking water systems and educational outcomes in Ontario, Canada.** *Ann Epidemiol.* 2020 2020/09/29/. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1047279720303811>.
2. Canadian Water Network. **Framing the Canadian Centre for Climate Information and Analytics to advance municipal flood management.** Waterloo, ON: Canadian Water Network, supported by the Insurance Bureau Of Canada; 2020 Oct. Available from: <https://cwn-rce.ca/wp-content/uploads/CWN-IBC-2020-study-insights-flood-management.pdf>.
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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

1. German SB, Thomas PA, Ruck B, Marshall EG, Davidow AL. **Poisonings After a Hurricane: Lessons From the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) During and Following Hurricane Sandy.** *Disaster Med Public Health Prep.* 2020:1-3. Available from: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/article/poisonings-after-a-hurricane-lessons-from-the-new-jersey-poison-information-and-education-system-njpies-during-and-following-hurricane-sandy/33AABE4770A2F3AC12E16B0465D1B0A2>.
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## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

1. Pabbaraju K, Wong AA, Douesnard M, Ma R, Gill K, Dieu P, et al. **A Public Health Laboratory Response to the Pandemic.** *J Clin Microbiol.* 2020;58(8):e01110-20. Available from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32513860>

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

1. Litman T. **Pandemic-Resilient Community Planning. Practical Ways to Help Communities Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Pandemics and Other Economic, Social and Environmental Shocks.** Victoria, BC: Victoria Transport Policy Institute; 2020 Oct. Available from: <https://www.vtppi.org/PRCP.pdf>.
2. Soares I, Weitkamp G, Yamu C. **Public Spaces as Knowledgescapes: Understanding the Relationship between the Built Environment and Creative Encounters at Dutch University Campuses and Science Parks.** *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 2020;17(20):7421. Available from: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/20/7421>.

## FOOD

### Safety

1. Douglas L. **Could the food system face a new Covid-19 wave?** New York, NY: Food and Environment Reporting Network; 2020 Oct 21. Available from: <https://thefern.org/2020/10/could-the-food-system-face-a-new-covid-19-wave-ahead/>.
2. Duda-Chodak A, Lukaszewicz M, Zięć G, Florkiewicz A, Filipiak-Florkiewicz A. **Covid-19 pandemic and food: Present knowledge, risks, consumers fears and safety.** *Trends in food science & technology.* 2020;105:145-60. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2020.08.020>.
3. Fisher D, Reilly A, Zheng AKE, Cook AR, Anderson DE. **Seeding of outbreaks of COVID-19 by contaminated fresh and frozen food.** *bioRxiv.* 2020:2020.08.17.255166. Available from: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2020/08/18/2020.08.17.255166.full.pdf>.
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### Security

- Eye on the Arctic. **Greenhouse project in Inuit region of Arctic Quebec advances with delivery of hydroponic container to Inukjuak.** Montreal, QC: Radio Canada; 2020 Oct. Available from: <https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2020/10/30/greenhouse-project-in-inuit-region-of-arctic-quebec-advances-with-delivery-of-hydroponic-container-to-inukjuak/>.
- Leone LA, Fleischhacker S, Anderson-Steeves B, Harper K, Winkler M, Racine E, et al. **Healthy Food Retail during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Future Directions.** Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020;17(20):7397. Available from: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/20/7397>.
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### GENERAL

- Elgar FJ, Stefaniak A, Wohl MJA. **The trouble with trust: Time-series analysis of social capital, income inequality, and COVID-19 deaths in 84 countries.** Soc Sci Med. 2020 Oct;263:113365. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7492158/>.
- Environmental Health News Staff. **Agents of environmental health change** [podcast]: EH News; 2020 Nov 9. Available from: <https://www.ehn.org/agents-of-change-environmental-health-podcast-2648772968.html>.
- Mendenhall E. **The COVID-19 syndemic is not global: context matters.** The Lancet. 2020. Available from: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32218-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32218-2).
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### Health Policy, Lessons, etc

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## COVID-19 ADDITIONAL TOPICS & GUIDANCE



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