Climate Change – a global public health challenge

Climate change affects health in many ways. It is linked to an increased risk of injury, morbidity and mortality from extreme weather events, heat-related diseases, respiratory illnesses, water-borne diseases and other water-related health impacts, zoonoses, vector-borne diseases, malnutrition and food-borne diseases, non-communicable diseases, and mental and psychosocial health. Vulnerable populations, such as people of lower socio-economic status, children, elderly and those with underlying health conditions, are disproportionately at risk. It has also an impact on healthcare facilities and health systems globally. Substantial public health and intersectoral efforts are therefore needed to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Each year, leading experts are invited to present and discuss their area of work at the Robert Koch Colloquium. This year’s topic focuses on the effects of climate change on population health and discusses potential mitigation and adaptation solutions. Each lecture addresses a specific aspect of climate change and health, and the final podium discussion brings together experts to outline possible next steps for climate change and health in Germany.

The lecture series takes place in English as a hybrid event on Wednesdays 16:00 CET. Due to the corona situation only RKI staff is allowed to attend in person in the RKI Lecture Hall (Hörsaal Nordufer). The event is livestreamed via WebEx and more information, including the WebEx link will soon be available via the RKI webpage (www.rki.de/rkc).