



The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) is dedicated to educating people on the ways in which the environment impacts human health and well-being. To foster health in our families, communities, and society, we have made evidence-based science, environmental health education, and primary prevention the foundation of CHE's work.

BECAUSE / HEALTH

Because Health is CHE's environmental health education campaign for millennials, who now make up about 90% of all new parents. Through our website and social media we provide positive, actionable, science-based, bite-sized, and approachable content so that individuals can make informed choices and advocate for things that impact their health. Currently, we have about 100K page views a month and 50K Instagram followers. Our audience is new to environmental health issues, but they are very passionate about wellness and health. Our expertise in environmental health science communications, social media, and digital marketing allow us to effectively reach our audience and encourage them to take action.



WEBINAR PROGRAMMING

CHE hosts 30-35 webinars a year on environmental health science topics with leading scientists and experts. Each webinar draws a high impact audience of 100-300 individuals, including local, state, and national government regulators, academics, health advocates, and health professionals. Our webinar recordings have been shared by public health agencies and are used by college students for class credit. Recently we have hosted multi-part webinar series on environmental risks and cancers, climate change and health, and the effects of plastic on health. We are currently hosting a series on COVID19 and another amplifying BI-POC scientists and advocates. We are planning a series on reproductive health for fall 2020.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND COVID-19

CHE has been at the forefront of highlighting the need for proper education on COVID-19 and environmental health issues, including safer disinfectants. Because Health has published multiple articles and dedicated social media posts to these issues. Currently we are focused on reopening of daycares, preschools, and schools. As some disinfecting chemicals like bleach (sodium hypochlorite) and quaternary ammonia (quats) can have harmful health effects, it is important that caregivers know what products are safe to use but also effective at reducing COVID-19 infections. In early July, Because Health released a toolkit on safer disinfecting, cleaning, and COVID-19 that includes one page overviews, a letter template, resource lists, and more. Many young parents are sending the toolkits to caregivers and schools and school administrators have asked us for them as well.

CHE has also partnered with scientists from the Western States PEHSU on two webinars about safer disinfecting. In our webinar for early childhood education and schools, we had over 300 individuals join live, including government officials from 20 states. We also had a webinar on EDCs and COVID-19 with Dr. Pete Myers and Dr. Linda Birnbaum with over 350 attendees. We are planning webinars on drinking water quality in schools during COVID-19 and another on air pollution and COVID-19.



DISPARITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CHE is committed to fighting racial and environmental justice. Starting in July 2020 we are launching a new webinar series, Agents of Change, in collaboration with a partnership between GWU Milken Institute School of Public Health and Environmental Health News. This series features Agents of Change fellows who are early-career scientists coming from historically under-represented backgrounds in science and academia. In all of our webinars series we continue to focus on presenting research on disparities and environmental justice communities. We are also committed to selecting diverse speakers from communities of color in order to provide a space for their critical voices to be heard. For example, reproductive justice will be the dominant lens for the upcoming fall webinar series. Because Health is also committed to publishing articles by BIPOC to further amplify their perspectives and expertise and we are committed to reaching BIPOC audiences.



FUTURE WORK AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CHE has a small staff and operating budget with an outsized impact. We currently have 3 individuals on staff and an operating budget of about 300K a year. CHE's director Karen Wang has a PhD in applied economics and is an experienced environmental health educator. Staff members Stephanie Brinker, MPH and Hannah Donart, MPH both have environmental health education backgrounds and are skilled researchers and communicators. Any grant or donation of any size will allow us to expand our work. Specifically, we have needs in three areas: 1) Additional resources will allow us to further grow Because Health's audience and impact through new media partnerships and improving digital marketing strategy. 2) We want to expand our work in areas where COVID-19 and environmental health overlap. Additional resources would allow us to distribute our safer disinfecting toolkit to more networks and expand our work to other areas. Funding would also help us leverage the current focus on prevention and health into lasting change for environmental health. 3) Additional funding will allow us to transform our reproductive health and webinar series into a virtual conference to bring education, networking, and collaboration across scientists in different fields, health care providers, and public health professionals and advocates.



CONTACT

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SEE OUR WORK

healthandenvironment.org

becausehealth.org

[Safer Cleaning and Disinfectant during COVID-19 Toolkit for Early Childcare Providers and Schools](#)

[Safer Cleaning and Disinfectant Use during COVID-19 at Home](#)

[CHE Upcoming Webinars and Archive](#)