

S41-4 Climate change and infectious diseases

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It is believed that global warming has a variety of impacts on human health, both directly and indirectly. An increase in cases of heat stroke due to heat waves can be listed as a direct effect. An increase in cases of infectious diseases can also be forecasted as an indirect effect. There will be an increase in arthropod-borne infections as a result of an expansion of the habitats and activities of mosquitoes, and an increase in bacterial infections due to contamination of water and food. There have been reports of such impacts.

Regarding the levels of severity of these impacts of climate change on infectious diseases, there will be large differences between regions depending on the infrastructure situations. In Japan, we can not say that these impacts of global warming on infectious diseases are being clearly seen yet. However, it is expected that these impacts will appear in one form or another if the warming progress in future. At the present time as well, research into the impacts of global warming on infectious diseases and on future prospects is being conducted in a wide range of fields. It is my intension to introduce the current state of progress as well.