

# MINT

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Degradation - GHGs, Ozone Depletion and Climate Change

In the next 50 years, we are likely to witness over 15,000 new cases of mammals transmitting viruses to other mammals - the reason is climate change! A recently published article in the scientific journal [Nature](#) analyses global warming will shift wildlife habitats and increase encounters between species capable of swapping pathogens

The COVID-19 pandemic probably started when a previously unknown coronavirus passed from a wild animal to a human. The experts now warn that a predicted rise in viruses jumping between species could trigger more outbreaks, posing a serious threat to human and animal health alike.

"Climate change is "creating innumerable hotspots of future zoonotic risk - or present day zoonotic risk - right in our backyard. We have to acknowledge that climate change is going to be the biggest upstream driver of disease emergence, and we have to build health systems that are ready for that," pointed out the study's co-author Colin Carlson, a global change biologist, as quoted by Nature.

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