



# Community Partners

## *Guidance for Heat Warnings*

### **About Heat Warnings & *Extended* Heat Warnings**

A **Heat Warning** is issued when the day-time temperature is forecasted to be above 29°C and with a minimum temperature of greater than or equal to 18°C or Humidex greater than or equal to 36°C are forecasted for 2+ days.

An '**Extended**' **Heat Warning** is issued when the same conditions apply above 29°C and with a minimum temperature greater than or equal to 18°C or if the humidex is greater than or equal to 36°C for more than 3 days. *Please continue to monitor the weather in your area for extended heat events and termination of the heat event.*

### **List of Higher Risk Populations**

Partner organizations are encouraged to consider those at greatest risk, factors that put them at a greater risk, and ways to work with populations of people who are at higher risk of adverse impacts from heat events. Below are examples of higher risk populations:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- People who are pregnant
- People with pre-existing health conditions, including mental health
- People with reduced mobility
- People using certain medications (prescribed or unprescribed), or alcohol
- People who live alone or who are experiencing social isolation
- People exposed to heat at work (inside or outside)
- People who exercise outdoors
- People living in situations of lower socio-economic status such as:
  - People who are experiencing poverty
  - People with lower education
  - People experiencing housing insecurity
  - People experiencing uncertain employment
- People who do not speak English or French
- Tourists or people who are new to the location



## Recommendations

### 1) Enhance Communication

- Work with various community partners (e.g., Algoma Public Health and your local municipality) to coordinate communication efforts.
  - Consider amplifying public health messaging (e.g. via shared spaces for clients, bulletin boards, etc.)
- Share communication and resources with employees and those utilizing services across various channels (e.g. website, social media, posters/print, verbal, etc.), such as:
  - [Signs and symptoms](#) of heat related illness and injury.
  - What to do if someone is [experiencing any signs or symptoms](#).
  - [Preventive measures](#) that can be taken to stay cool and prevent heat-related health impacts.
  - Locations and operating hours of cooling spots/centers (as applicable to your local municipality).

### 2) Additional Measures

- Strategies for an increase in service use which may require additional resources.
- Planning for an extended heat event which may require additional resources.
- Conducting [Health checks during extreme heat events, as appropriate for your organization](#).
- Modifying or canceling any outdoor activities or events, as appropriate.
- Providing access to a cool space and drinking water for clients, as appropriate.
- Delivering targeted communication, services, and approaches to those identified at greater risk, as appropriate to your organization.
- Occupational health and safety of employees, and how to [manage heat stress at work](#).



## Resources

- [Managing heat stress at work](#) (Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development)
- [A Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System for Ontario](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [Extreme heat events: Overview](#) (Health Canada)
  - [Extreme heat events: Related Resources](#) (Health Canada)
- [Heat Event Response Planning](#) (British Columbia, Centre for Disease Control)
- [Communicating the Health Risks of Extreme Heat Events: Toolkit for Public Health and Emergency Management Officials](#) (Health Canada)
- [Heat Alert and Response Systems to Protect Health: Best Practices Guidebook](#) (Health Canada)
- [Heat and Health](#) (World Health Organization)
- [Health checks during extreme heat events](#) (National Collaborating Center for Environmental Health)