UK Health Security Agency

Heat-Health Alert summary action card for care homes and other adult social care residential settings

This is a summary of the suggested actions for managers in this setting at each alert level. Check the Heat-Health Alert action card for health and social care providers for more detail, including what to do before summer, and adapt actions for your service as appropriate.

Summary actions for a yellow alert

- ☐ Conduct a local risk assessment for hot weather in your area and your organisation's response, consulting the Heat-Health Alert, guidance and full action card
- ☐ Confirm that staff are aware of business continuity and hot weather plans and received the Heat-Health Alert. Share it with staff if they have not received it
- ☐ Share and explain the importance of Beat the heat messages to clients and staff, including raising awareness of heat illness signs and prevention
- ☐ Ensure staff check thermometers are installed and working, and monitor temperatures inside buildings especially where people spend most time
- ☐ Ensure staff keep certain rooms or areas below 26°C, giving people a place to cool down, and keep the building as cool as possible (for example, by closing windows when it's hottest and opening windows when it is cooler outside, such as at night)
- ☐ Review, prioritise and monitor individuals most vulnerable to heat-related illnesses
- ☐ Assess staffing levels, recognising possible increased care needs during hot weather
- ☐ Ensure staff promote client hydration, offering cold water and ice regularly
- ☐ Ensure medication is stored according to instructions
- ☐ Encourage and enable staff to carry water and stay hydrated, and report concerns about their own health promptly

Summary actions for an amber alert

- ☐ Continue yellow alert actions
- ☐ Follow your local business continuity and/or hot weather plans
- ☐ Ensure that staff monitor the temperature of at-risk individuals and their environment
- ☐ Advise staff and clients to raise concerns promptly, as heat illnesses can worsen fast

Summary actions for a red alert

- ☐ Continue amber alert actions
- ☐ Follow all local emergency response plans and continue to monitor the current situation by checking the weather alerts or local news
- ☐ Actively monitor all clients during hot weather episodes and monitor compliance with actions to keep living areas as cool as possible and cool rooms or areas below 26°C