



State of California—Health and Human  
Services Agency  
**California Department of  
Public Health**



July 2, 2024

AFL 24-17

**TO:** All Facilities

**SUBJECT:** Excessive Heat Warning Alert

**All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary**

- This AFL notifies health care facilities that the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued several Excessive Heat Warnings for California.
- Facilities must implement recommended precautionary measures to keep individuals safe and comfortable during extremely hot temperatures and must have contingency plans in place to deal with the loss of air conditioning, or in the case when no air conditioning is available, take measures to ensure patients and residents are free of adverse conditions that may cause heat-related health complications.
- Facilities must report extreme heat conditions that compromise patient health and safety and/or require an evacuation, transfer, or discharge of patients.

The NWS has issued several Excessive Heat Warnings throughout California. From July 2, 2024 through July 8, 2024, California will experience significant warming trends that will bring dangerous temperatures to much of the state, resulting in multiple excessive heat warnings and watches. While heat events such as this one are not unusual during the summer months, an extended heat wave, with poor cooling overnight, can lead to dangerous conditions.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center Health Care Quality (CHCQ) reminds all health care facilities that the elderly and other health compromised individuals are more susceptible to temperature extremes and possible dehydration. Facility administrators should monitor weather predictions for fluctuations in extreme temperatures and take extra precautions to be sure appropriate air conditioning equipment is well maintained and operating effectively.

Facilities must have contingency plans in place to deal with the loss of air conditioning, or in the case when no air conditioning is available, take measures to ensure patients and residents are free of adverse conditions that may cause heat-related health complications. Facilities should use portable fans and other temporary cooling devices when indicated. When preparing for high temperatures, you may refer to AFL 24-13 for additional information.

CHCQ recommends facilities review CDPH's Fast Facts: Preventing Summer Heat Injuries and implement the following measures to keep residents and clients comfortable during extremely hot weather:

- Dress in lightweight, loose-fitting clothing
- Keep residents well hydrated with particular attention to dependent residents
- Minimize physical activities during the hottest parts of the day
- Stay indoors and out of the sun during the hottest parts of the day
- Use fans as indicated in the "Fast Facts" page on preventing summer heat injuries
- Open windows where feasible if screens are intact, to allow fresh air to circulate
- Use cool compresses, misting, showers, and baths to promote cooling

- Avoid hot foods and heavy meals
- Encourage frozen treats such as “popsicles” between meals
- Keep a hydration station readily available to residents, family, and staff
- Be alert to adverse changes in patient and resident conditions that may be heat related
- Develop and implement a system to monitor hydration status and be prepared to take appropriate interventions
- Pay special attention to patients with medications that make the patient susceptible to high temperatures, e.g., psychotropic medications

Licensing regulations require facilities to report all emergency and/or disaster-related occurrences that threaten the welfare, safety, or health of patients to CHCQ. If the extreme heat conditions affect your facility by compromising patient health and safety and/or require an evacuation, transfer, or discharge of patients, you must contact your local CHCQ district office.

Please follow these guidelines for reporting such occurrences:

Time	Requirement
During normal business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	Contact the local CHCQ district office you customarily work with for your geographical location.
For after-hour reporting or if the local CHCQ district office is non-operational due to an emergency and/or disaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For facilities outside Los Angeles County, contact the CDPH duty officer at (916) 328-3605.</li> <li>• For facilities in Los Angeles County contact the Los Angeles County Operator at (213) 974-1234. Ask that they notify the on-call Health Facilities Inspection Division supervisor.</li> </ul>

If you have any questions regarding the content of this AFL, please contact your respective district office.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by Cassie Dunham**

Cassie Dunham

Deputy Director

#### Resources

- Fast Facts: Preventing Summer Heat Injuries
- CDPH Extreme Heat
- CDC Extreme Heat
- NWS Alerts - California
- Listos California – Extreme Heat Quick Tips
- AFL 24-13 – Hot Summer Weather Advisory

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