

HEALTH ALERT

EXTREME HEAT EVENT

July 14th – 17th, 2026

Guidance for Hospitals, Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Nursing Homes, Adult Care Facilities, Homecare, Hospice, Dialysis Centers and Local Health Departments

An extreme heat and severe thunderstorm event is expected to impact the State with dangerously hot and humid weather beginning Tuesday, July 14th, 2026.

Heat Advisories and Extreme Heat Watches have been posted for some areas of the State through the end of the week. The latest information on active weather watches, warnings, and advisories can be found on the [National Weather Service Page](#).

In anticipation of this event, facilities and homecare and hospice agencies are strongly encouraged to review the [previously distributed](#) extreme heat guidance including guidance issued on June 10th and your facility-specific emergency response plans to ensure backup systems are ready and functioning properly through load testing and inspection. Additionally, all facilities should report any disruption of services or infrastructure to the Department's State Medical Operations Coordination Center and complete required Facility-Reported Incident reports where applicable.

KEY POINTS

- The period of **Tuesday through Friday** is expected to have temperatures into the upper 90's, and heat indices **pushing the "feels-like" temperatures to 105° in many areas**. Overnight hours are expected to provide little relief, as temperatures and humidity will continue to be high.
- Severe thunderstorms may impact some areas Tuesday through Friday, with possible damaging winds, large hail and frequent cloud to ground lightning.
- Facilities should ensure their 24/7 Emergency Contact on the Health Commerce System is current and reflective of a cell phone number in the event of a landline failure.
- Facilities should ensure their Comprehensive Emergency Management Program, or approved alternative, is current and complete as well as accessible by staff providing coverage during peak and off-hours.
- Facilities and provider agencies should take precautionary measures to ensure patient and resident safety and limit or suspend outdoor activities. Closing doors to unoccupied spaces, as well as window shades and turning off lights where practicable, may help to reduce indoor temperatures and reduce strain on heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment.
- Pursuant to Public Health Law (PHL) section 2803(1)(g) and 10 NYCRR 405.9, all patients are entitled to an appropriate discharge plan, including those being discharged from an acute care facility or emergency room. Comparable discharge-planning requirements apply to OMH-licensed psychiatric programs under Mental Hygiene Law 29.15 and 14 NYCRR Parts 580 and 590. Sending any patient, including those who are unhoused, to the street during extreme heat



events is not an appropriate discharge plan. A discharge plan that includes an arrangement for an individual to return to and be housed in a shelter with appropriate cooling for an unhoused patient may be an appropriate discharge outlet during extreme heat. Please ensure that the discharge planning staff in your facility(ies) are informed of this.

- Heat stress can also affect staff especially when wearing personal protective equipment. As such, facilities should ensure staff have adequate opportunities for breaks and required hydration. More information about staff and worker safety can be found at the [NYS Department of Labor Extreme Weather Guidance for Outdoor Workers](#)
- Instruct at-risk patients and their caregivers to use home air conditioners or seek cooling centers or locations that are air-conditioned such as a mall, library or supermarket; if the patient must remain home, they should stay on the lowest floor of their home, use window shade or sheets to block the sun at windows, and avoid going outdoors. Information about cooling centers can be found on the [NYSDOH Cooling Center Locator](#).
- All Article 28, 7, 36 and 40 healthcare facilities and agencies are reminded to report any disruption of services or infrastructure to the New York State Department of Health Medical Operations Coordination Center at (917) 909-2676.