



## **PROVIDER ALERT**

### **HEAT WAVE ADVISORY**

**JULY 17, 2012**

The National Weather Service forecasts a potential heat index of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, with the potential to reach 105 degrees, for central Maryland jurisdictions. In response, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has activated its State Heat Emergency plan, and is alerting the affected jurisdictions of a potential extreme heat event. The heat advisory is for Monday, July 16th through Wednesday, July 18th, 2012. The National Weather Service has issued a Heat Advisory for Baltimore City and County in effect from noon today to 8 PM this evening.

These jurisdictions should consider activating their heat response plans, if applicable. An Extreme Heat Event is a weather condition with excessive heat and/or humidity that has the potential to cause heat-related illnesses. An Extreme Heat Event is defined as a day or series of days when the Heat Index reaches 105 degrees Fahrenheit. We consider activating our plan any time the forecast shows a high chance of reaching our trigger point of 105 degrees. Additional information, including the State Heat Plan, Heat Reports, FAQs, and updated contact information is posted on the DHMH site:

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/extremeheat/SitePages/Home.aspx>. We hope you find the materials helpful. CDC also provides an extreme heat media toolkit for your use: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/extremeheat/>.



**Suggested actions include:**

- Review planned activities and assess the risk associated with continuing those activities
- If exterior activities are to continue, advise participants to maintain hydration and protect themselves from the extreme heat
- Provide cooling measures for exterior activities such as misting areas and additional shading
- Review Emergency Operations Plans and ensure all agencies and responders are aware of their roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency
- Where possible, check the status of vulnerable populations and ensure their cooling systems are operational
- Maintain a high level of awareness and react promptly to populations and mass gatherings that begin to suffer minor reactions to the heat to prevent more participants from being affected.