

City of Hamilton's Heat Response Plan – A Community Heat Response Initiative

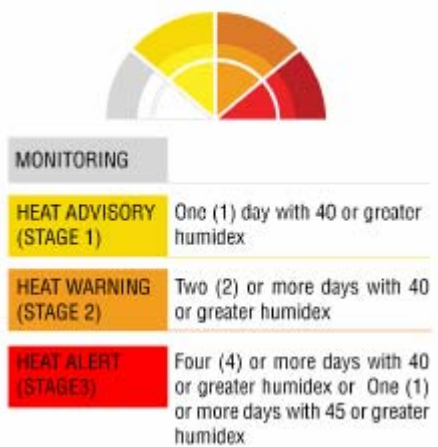
The City of Hamilton and community partners have developed the Community Heat Response Initiative to assist citizens in responding to intense heat events. The Initiative alerts the public to hot weather conditions that are imminent or occurring and provides support and information for those most at-risk of heat-related illness.



Purpose of the Community Heat Response Initiative

Hamilton's Community Heat Response Initiative provides a framework for the coordination and implementation of hot weather response activities to reduce the impact of intense heat events on the population.

Overview of the Community Heat Response Initiative



The City of Hamilton's Public Health Services monitors humidex and smog forecast during the summer months.

If Public Health Services determines that a response is required, cool place operators, community agencies, and the public are notified via a number of methods, including:

- email
- phone
- fax
- media advisory to local newspapers and television stations
- City's website – www.hamilton.ca/heat
- Social media (twitter and facebook)
- City-owned LCD screens

At Stage 1 – Advisory:

- 27 City-operated and 10 community partner-operated cool places will open to the public.
- 50 spray pads will be available for use by the public, three (3) with extended hours.
- Six (6) community partners will also make 30 locations available as Cool Places for their specific clients.

At Stage 2 - Warning:

- An additional 11 City-operated Cool Place locations will open.
- Eight (8) outdoor pools will also extend their operating hours, and the Salvation Army will initiate bottled water distribution within the city.

At Stage 3 - Alert:

- All 78 Cool Places will be open, 48 for the public and 30 for clients only.
- Water will be distributed and EMS and other partners will increase their outreach.

Keeping citizens safe during a prolonged and intense heat event is a shared responsibility between the City of Hamilton, community partners and the public. The City recognizes that its community partners are often "first responders" when speaking to citizens about how to take appropriate precautions during intense and prolonged hot weather. Heat awareness and education materials are available at City facilities and community partner locations to ensure that the community, and those identified at-risk, are provided with critical information as well as support during intense heat events.