COMMUNICATION UPDATE

| TO:          | Mayor and Members  
              | City Council      |
|--------------|-------------------|
| DATE:        | June 2, 2021      |
| SUBJECT:     | Extreme Heat Weather Protocol and COVID-19 (City Wide) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide          |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Paul Johnson  
                | General Manager  
                | Healthy and Safe Communities Department |
| SIGNATURE:   | Healthy and Safe Communities Department (Recreation Division and Public Health Services) have revised Hamilton’s Extreme HEAT Weather Protocol in response to COVID-19 and in accordance with the COVID-19 provincial restrictions. |

Healthy and Safe Communities Department (Recreation Division and Public Health Services) have revised Hamilton’s Extreme HEAT Weather Protocol in response to COVID-19 and in accordance with the COVID-19 provincial restrictions.

The City of Hamilton’s Heat Warning and Information System includes seasonal monitoring and two levels of heat response: Heat Warning and Extended Heat Warning. The Medical Officer of Health for the City issues a Heat Warning when there are two or more consecutive days forecasted with daytime highs greater than or equal to 31°C and night time lows greater than or equal to 20°C or two or more consecutive days with a humidex of 40°C or greater. An Extended Heat Warning is triggered when there are three or more consecutive days observed with daytime highs greater than or equal to 31°C and night time lows greater than or equal to 20°C or three or more consecutive days with a humidex of 40°C or greater.

Staff have worked to ensure the plans in place reflect the current provincial restrictions and can be scaled up as more facilities and amenities reopen in the coming weeks and months.

**Active Locations Supporting Heat Response**
Under the current restrictions, the following locations across the city will be activated as Cooling Places:

**City Recreation Centres** - open 12pm to 7pm daily:
- Central Memorial Community Centre, 93 West Avenue S, Hamilton
Hamiton Public Library locations:
- Hamilton Central Library, 55 York Blvd, Hamilton
  Hours of operation: Tuesday to Friday, 1 pm to 6 pm; Saturday to Monday 1 pm to 5 pm
- All HPL Branches: Tuesday - Friday 1 pm to 6 pm; Saturday 1 pm to 5 pm

Locations were selected to serve the broader community need and because the necessary public health measures such as physical distancing could be easily implemented. All locations can be identified by a “Cool Down Here” sign at the entrance and will have drinking water available on-site.

To protect residents, COVID-19 precautions will be in place at all Cooling Places, including:
- Reduced capacity and chairs set up to ensure physical distancing.
- Contact tracing required, including name, contact information and time in/out.
- Screening for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Mask or face covering must be worn.
- Regular cleaning and disinfection, including chairs between users and high touch point cleaning every 3 hours.
- Staff trained on the safe use, care, disposal and limitations of PPE.
- Staff will contact Public Health Services for specific advice and control measures regarding anyone who displays symptoms or is suspected to have COVID-19.

For more information and tips to stay cool, please visit [www.hamilton.ca/heat](http://www.hamilton.ca/heat).

If you have any questions about the HEAT Response, please contact Janine Gaunt, Manager, District Recreation Operations, Recreation Division at ext. 2455 or at Janine.Gaunt@hamilton.ca and if you have questions about public health triggers please contact Jane Murrell, Program Supervisor, Healthy Environments Division, Public Health Services at ext. 5049 or at Jane.Murrell@hamilton.ca.