

Beat The Heat: Yellow Heat alert: Heathfield Community College response to official guidance

Suggested actions to consider for a Yellow Heat alert

Yellow alerts may be issued during periods of heat in which would be unlikely to impact most people, but those who are particularly vulnerable (for example, the elderly with multiple health conditions and on multiple medications) are likely to struggle to cope and where action is required within the health and social care sector specifically.

Advice for providers of health or social care applicable to Heathfield Community College	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> check individuals most vulnerable to heat-related illnesses have visitor or phone call arrangements in place 	Check Individual Health Plans for heat related risks and raise concern if relevant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reaffirm key evidence-based public health messages to clients and staff 	Issue general guidance to staff, students and parents. Including signs to watch for and mitigations to take.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> check and record indoor temperatures regularly during the hottest periods for all areas where patients or clients reside and follow internal procedures if a cause for concern is identified; ensure designated cool areas are below 26°C 	Audit rooms where ventilation is likely to cause increased difficulty and consider preventative measures possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess staffing levels, recognising possible increased care needs of clients during hot weather 	Check Individual Risk assessments and Health Plans and raise measures suggested with staff as appropriate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor the local and national weather forecast 	ditto
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review storage of medicines – most medicines should be kept below 25°C, so they should be stored somewhere cool, dry, out of direct sunlight and away from windowsills. Medicines should only be stored in the in fridge if specified. The NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service has further guidance 	Review storage requirements of medicines kept on site and of any student carrying medication on their person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess refrigeration capacity to ensure sufficient cold water and ice are available to minimise risks from dehydration 	Premises Team will work with Caterlink to ensure an ability to maintain suitable refrigeration for the kitchen and water supply through fountains. Ice packs available from Welfare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review and prioritise individuals most vulnerable to heat-related illnesses; for individuals who cannot be moved to cool areas, or for whom a move might be too disorienting, take actions to cool them down (for example, liquids, cool wipes) and enhance surveillance 	See info re Individual Health Plans and general guidance for use of social time.