

Yellow Cold Weather alert: Heathfield Community College response to official guidance

Suggested actions to consider for a Yellow Cold Weather alert

Yellow alerts may be issued during periods of cold weather 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.

Advice for providers of health or social care that is applicable to Heathfield Community College	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> check individuals most vulnerable to cold-related illnesses have visitor or phone call arrangements in place 	Check Individual Health Plans (staff and students) for cold 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"> Restate mitigations and emergency procedures for when outside areas cannot be used or when closure should be considered 	Ensure indoor social time arrangements are clear to all. Ensure "snow chain information" is restated and website/ESCC information channels are understood.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> check and record indoor temperatures regularly during the coldest 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 c.18°C 	Audit rooms where thermal loss 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 cold 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"> ensure road/pavement gritting preparations are in place to allow access if ice and/or snow are expected 	Review stocks and condition of gritting equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> check heating system capacity to ensure sufficient temperature is available in indoor areas 	Premises Team will work with ESCC to inform of any weakness in the heating systems and/or pressure points on electrical systems due to necessary additional temporary heating.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review and prioritise individuals most vulnerable to cold-related illnesses; for individuals who cannot be moved to warmer areas, or for whom a move might be too disorienting, take actions and enhance surveillance 	See info re Individual Health Plans and general guidance for use of social time.