



HEAT EDUCATION AND ALERT TOOLS (HEAT)

The [Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health \(BCEH\)](#), in collaboration with the [Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management \(OPEM\)](#) and the [Office of Local and Regional Health \(OLRH\)](#), is excited to announce the launch of the **Heat Education and Alert Tools (HEAT) response**. This initiative aims to increase awareness of climate change and extreme heat, enhance preparedness for extreme heat events, and improve our collective response to these health hazards. The initiative will use the new CDC/NOAA [NWS HeatRisk Tool](#) to provide timely and accurate extreme heat forecast information. Unlike other alert systems, the new CDC/NOAA tool synthesizes health, heat, socio-demographic, and natural/built environment data to forecast community heat risk.

This HEAT response is a data-driven approach with both educational and alert components:

Educational Components:

- Amplify climate and extreme heat-related information to health officials and the public via social media and other digital platforms.
- Target outreach to high-risk communities, centering health equity and environmental justice.
- Provide factsheets, web pages, and presentations to help raise awareness, understand the public health impacts of climate change, and prepare communities for extreme heat.

Alert Components:

- Monitor [NWS HeatRisk Tool](#) for extreme heat events.
- Notify healthcare professionals, local health departments, and other stakeholders through the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) to ensure timely and effective responses to extreme heat conditions.

This effort will help to protect our communities from the adverse effects of extreme heat and better prepare our healthcare sector, local health departments, and communities to respond to extreme heat events and the climate crisis. By partnering with a broad range of stakeholders and leveraging our evidence-based resources, Massachusetts can position itself as a leader addressing the serious threat to public health caused by climate change. If we face this climate crisis together, we can build capacity, instill resiliency, especially for



our most vulnerable communities, and protect the public’s health. We look forward to working with you.

For more information and resources on how to participate and benefit from this initiative, please use the link below to download the informational pdf or [visit our website](#).

Sincerely,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

For more information on the Heat Education and Alert Tools (HEAT) Response Initiative, visit:

[BCEH Announces New Heat Education and Alert Tools \(HEAT\) Response Initiative | mass.gov](#)

For more information on extreme heat and health in Massachusetts, please visit:

[Climate and Health | mass.gov](#)

Important Links

Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality:

[Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality | Mass.gov](#)

Cooling Centers Guidance:

[Cooling Centers Guidance | Mass.gov](#)

Learn How Climate Change Harms Health:

[Learn How Climate Change Harms Health | Mass.gov](#)

Emergency Response Including Power Outage Maps

[Emergency Information | Mass.gov](#)

Extreme Heat Safety Tips:

[Extreme Heat Safety Tips | Mass.gov](#)

Learn About Climate Hazards:

[Learn About Climate Hazards | Mass.gov](#)

MassAIR Online:

[Air Monitoring in Massachusetts | Mass.gov](#)

Summer safety including swimming, tick and mosquito bite prevention, window safety, and other important tips

[Massachusetts Department of Public Health offers summer safety guidance | Mass.gov](#)

For Infants, Children, and Caregivers:

CDC Heat and Infants and Children:

[Heat and Infants and Children | Extreme Heat | CDC](#)

Boston Children's Hospital and New England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit ClimateRX:

[Pediatric Environmental Health Center | Climate Rx | Boston Children's Hospital \(childrenshospital.org\)](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics

HealthyChildren.org:

[Extreme Heat: Tips to Keep Kids Safe When Temperatures Soar - HealthyChildren.org](#)

For Pregnant People:

CDC Clinical Guidance for Heat and Pregnancy:

[Clinical Guidance for Heat and Pregnancy \(cdc.gov\)](#)

For Older Adults:

Office of Elder Affairs

[Preparing for Extreme Heat | Mass.gov](#) –

NIH Hot Weather Safety for Older Adults:

[Hot Weather Safety for Older Adults | National Institute on Aging \(nih.gov\)](#)

CDC Heat and Older Adults:

[Heat and Older Adults \(Aged 65+\) | Extreme Heat | CDC](#)

For Individuals with Chronic Conditions:

CDC Clinical Guidance for Heat and Children with Asthma:

[Clinical Guidance for Heat and Children with Asthma \(cdc.gov\)](#)

CDC Clinical Guidance for Heat and Cardiovascular Disease:

[Clinical Guidance for Heat and Cardiovascular Disease \(cdc.gov\)](#)

CDC Heat and Medications: Guidance for Clinicians:

[Heat and Medications - Guidance for Clinicians \(cdc.gov\)](#)

For Outdoor Workers:

CDC Heat and Outdoor Workers:

[Heat and Medications - Guidance for Clinicians \(cdc.gov\)](#)

NIOSH Heat Stress:

[Heat Stress | NIOSH | CDC](#)

MA Department of Labor Heat Guidance for Employees

[DLS Heat Illness Flyers 2023 \(mass.gov\)](#)

MA Department of Labor Heat Guidance for Employers

[DLS Heat Illness Flyers 2023 \(mass.gov\)](#)

For Outdoor Athletes:

CDC Heat and Athletes:

[Heat and Athletes | Extreme Heat | CDC](#)

Heat Illness: Keeping Youth Sports Athletes Safe:

[Heat Illness: Keeping Youth Sports Athletes Safe \(truesport.org\)](#)

MA Interscholastic Athletic Association - [MIAA-Heat-Modification-Policy-081821-amended-9-1-22CB.pdf](#)

Additional Resources:

Preparing for Extreme Heat:

[Extreme Heat | Ready.gov](#)

Harvard C-Change and AmeriCares Climate Resilience Toolkit:

[Climate Resilient Health Clinics | AmeriCares](#)

New England Journal of Medicine Fossil Fuel Pollution and Climate Change

[NEJM | Climate Change](#)

Harvard C-Change and AmeriCares Heat Action Plan:

[Heat Action Plan | AmeriCares](#)