

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Baltimore City Launches Code Red Heat Alert Plan**  
**Health Commissioner Declares Code Red Heat Alert for Saturday through Monday**

**Baltimore, MD** (June 6, 2008) – Mayor Sheila Dixon and senior city officials will release the Baltimore’s 2008 Code Red Heat Alert Plan at 9 a.m. in the rotunda at City Hall this morning.

Developed by the Office of Emergency Management with the involvement of more than a dozen city and private agencies, the plan mobilizes city resources to prevent unnecessary suffering and death from excessive heat this summer.

The plan includes:

- Extensive outreach to the city’s most vulnerable residents;
- The opening of cooling centers on days when experts predict a risk of excess death from heat;
- Distribution of water to the homeless;
- Surveillance and reporting of medically ill individuals in need of energy assistance by doctors and emergency departments; and
- Extensive tracking through the city’s 311 call system and other resources

The plan’s release coincides with the first declaration of Code Red Heat Alert in Baltimore. Because of predicted high temperatures and potential danger according to the Baltimore Heat Watch Warning System and the National Weather Service, the Health Commissioner is declaring this year’s first Code Red Heat Alert from Saturday, June 7 through Monday, June 9.

Baltimore City will open six emergency cooling centers operated by the Housing Department on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Each center will have cool air, water, and ice available. These centers will open at 9:00 am:

- Northern Community Action Center -- 5225 York Road
- Southern Community Action Center -- 606 Cherry Hill Road (inside the shopping center 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- Northwest Community Action Center -- 3314 Ayrdale Avenue

- Western Community Action Center -- 1133 Pennsylvania Avenue
- Southeastern Community Action Center -- 3411 Bank Street

The Commission on Aging and Retirement Education will operate four centers on Monday, June 9. These centers will open at 9:00 am:

- Waxter Center -- 1000 Cathedral Street
- Oliver Center -- 1700 Gay Street
- Sandtown-Winchester Center -- 1601 Baker Street
- Hatton Center -- 2825 Fait Avenue

In addition, residents can go to Recreation and Parks Centers during normal operating hours throughout the city for relief from the heat.

The Baltimore City Health Department recommends that city residents:

- Drink plenty of water or juice
- Avoid alcohol and caffeine
- Wipe skin with cool water as needed
- Reduce outside activities
- Wear light weight and light-colored clothing
- Stay inside during the hottest time of day
- Watch out for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke:
  - Confusion
  - Nausea
  - Light-headedness
  - High body temperature with cool and clammy skin
- Seek medical help immediately if any of these symptoms occur
- Seek relief from the heat in air-conditioned locations
- Check on older, sick, or frail people in your community who may need help responding to the heat

City residents who want information on the cooling centers can call 311. Any city resident experiencing the signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke should call 911.

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