



# BCHD PRESS RELEASE

Baltimore City Health Department

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Baltimore City To Open Additional Cooling Centers Code Red Heat Alert is in effect through Sunday**

BALTIMORE, MD (July 20, 2011) – In response to the extreme air temperatures, Baltimore City is opening additional cooling centers and taking other measures to provide cooling relief to vulnerable populations. A Code Red Heat Alert is in effect for Baltimore City through Sunday.

#### **Please note some cooling center hours may have changed.**

The Community Action Program will operate five centers around the city. These centers will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. today through Friday, and 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday:

- 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 -- 3939 Reisterstown Road
- Southeastern Community Action Center -- 3411 Bank Street
- Eastern Community Action Center – 1400 E. Federal Street

The Health Department's Office of Aging and CARE Services will operate six cooling centers. These centers will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. today through Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday:

- Waxter Center -- 1000 Cathedral Street
- Oliver Center -- 1700 Gay Street
- Sandtown-Winchester Center -- 1601 Baker Street
- Hatton Center -- 2825 Fait Avenue
- John Booth -- 229 1/2 S. Eaton Street
- Zeta Center -- 4501 Reisterstown Road

Due to the prolonged nature of the heat event, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is opening 12 additional cooling centers Thursday, Friday and Saturday:

- Brooklyn O'Malley, 3560 3rd Street, 21225 – 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Chick Webb, 623 N. Eden Street, 21205 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Ella Bailey, 100 E. Heath Street, 21230 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Furley, 4633 Furley Avenue, 21206 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- James McHenry, 911 Hollins Street, 21223 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Leith Walk, 1235 Sherwood Avenue, 21212 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- Locust Point, 1627 E. Fort Avenue, 21230 – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Mary Rodman, 3600 W. Mulberry Street, 21229 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Mt. Royal, 120 W. Mosher Street, 21217 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Oliver, 1600 N. Spring Street 21213 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Robert C. Marshall, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, 21202 – 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Central Rosemont, 2621 Winchester Street, 21216 – 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

A map of all city cooling centers can be found by clicking here: <http://goo.gl/JYyLs>. Residents are encouraged to call 311 for help identifying the nearest cooling center.

“For the next several days, until temperatures return to normal, we are asking residents to limit the amount of time spent outdoors, drink lots of water, stay cool and keep tabs on your neighbors,” said Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris Barbot. “Dehydration is a serious concern for seniors, those with severe underlying chronic illnesses and those without a reliable way to stay cool.”

Beginning tomorrow, Baltimore City and our Code Red private sector partners are implementing several additional measures to protect the public, including:

- Activating the trained [CERT Team volunteers](#) to perform welfare checks on people in need in their communities.
- Mobilizing neighborhood leaders to check on and assist vulnerable individuals in targeted locations.
- Sending out pre-recorded messages via reverse 911.
- Conducting telephone welfare checks for seniors.
- Placing into service additional BCFD Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units.

During periods of extreme 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 (11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- 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
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles, even for short periods of time
- Watch out for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke:
  - Confusion
  - Nausea
  - Light-headedness
  - High body temperature with cool and clammy skin
  - Hot, dry, flushed skin
  - Rapid or slowed heart beat
  - Seek medical help immediately if any of these symptoms occur

“Residents who are concerned about a neighbor can call 311. Call 911 if you are having a heat-related emergency,” said Baltimore City Fire Chief James Clack.

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

For more information, please visit our Website at [www.baltimorehealth.org/coderedinfo](http://www.baltimorehealth.org/coderedinfo).

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