

Serial number: 2025/021

Date: 11/06/2025

Event: Heat Health Alert: YELLOW - SE, EM, EoE & London

Notified by: Extreme Events and Health Protection, Centre for Climate and Health Security

Authorised by

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IRP Level Routine

Incident Lead N/A

Instructions for Cascade

- **UKHSA Private Office Groups** who cascade onwards within Groups
- **UKHSA Regions Directorate:**
 - UKHSA Health Protection Teams
 - Deputy Directors to cascade to Directors of Public Health, LRFs and LHRPs
- **UKHSA Regional Communications**
- **Directors of Public Health** to share with Directors of Adult Social care
- **DHSC CMO**
- **OHID Regional Directors of Public Health**
- **NHS EPRR** to share with ICBs
- **NHSE National Operations Centre**

Summary:

UKHSA and the Met Office have issued a Yellow Heat-Health Alert for the Southeast of England, London, East Midlands and East of England.

The current alert is in place between 21:00 on 12th June 2025 and 08:00 on 15th June 2025

This briefing provides a high-level overview of the health risks associated with hot weather during Summer 2025 and the responsibilities in the health systems during an alert.

Background and Interpretation:

Heat and health risks

1. **Health Impacts:** Hot weather significantly increases health risks, such as heart attacks, strokes, respiratory illnesses, and other conditions. Certain groups—especially older adults, young children, and individuals with chronic health conditions—are particularly vulnerable.
2. **Extreme Heat Events:** In summer 2022, England recorded its highest-ever temperature (40.3°C), prompting the first Level 4 Heat-Health Alert, equivalent to a RED alert in the current Weather Health Alerting system. The Met Office also issued its first-ever Red Extreme Heat Warning.
3. **Seasonal Reports:** A detailed summary of summer 2025 weather conditions is available from the Met Office. ([seasonal summary of summer 2025](#))
4. **Impact Data:** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) annually reports on heat-related health impacts, with previous reports accessible via [GOV.UK](#)



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5. **Summer 2024 Heat Deaths:** During summer 2024, four heat episodes resulted in 1,311 heat-associated deaths (95% CI: 929–1,692). This was 282 more deaths than predicted based on historical temperature-health relationships. Notably, significant heat-associated deaths occurred during three episodes despite only yellow-level heat-health alerts being issued.

Adverse Weather and Health Plan and Weather-Health Alerting Service

1. **Weather Health Alert System:** The [Weather-Health Alerting System](#) is governed by the [Adverse Weather and Health Plan \(AWHP\)](#). The health risks and effects of adverse heat are described in the Plan and its [supporting evidence](#). UKHSA and the Met Office work together to ensure the Weather-Health Alerts and National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) systems are complementary to one another and help ensure the maximum possible warning time.
2. **Heat-Health Alert (HHA):** Operates from 1 June to 30 September. An out of season alert may still be issued if impacts from adverse weather on health are expected. Heat-Health Alerts are cascaded through the health and care system. Details of the for Heat-Health Alert Levels can be found in the [Weather Health Alerting User Guide](#).

Guidance and Advice & Communications toolkit - Hot weather and health

1. **Guidance:** The [Hot weather and health: guidance and advice webpage](#) includes information and guidance to help understand the risks of heat and consider actions to protect health.
2. **Action Cards:** [The hot weather and health action cards](#) summarise suggested actions to be taken by different professional bodies and organisations in the event of extreme heat.
3. **Toolkit:** To support stakeholders with their hot weather communications [UKHSA has updated our toolkit for 2025](#). The material in this toolkit is intended to provide basic health information that can be communicated during hot spells so that the right messages reach the right people at the right time.

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Regions

1. UKHSA regional teams must be familiar with heat-health alert levels and related actions, supporting Directors of Public Health (DsPH) and other stakeholders. Specifically, regions should:
 - **Support Health Actions:** Collaborate with DsPH to assist health and social care commissioners, providers, and frontline staff in reducing heat-related harm.
 - **Ensure Multiagency Planning:** Work with DsPH through Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) and Local Health Resilience Partnerships (LHRPs) to establish robust, coordinated plans for adverse weather events, particularly heatwaves.
 - **Coordinate Communications:** Liaise with DsPH and local partners, in collaboration with regional UKHSA communications teams, to clearly define roles, responsibilities, and spokespeople for local messaging.
 - **Implement Communication Plans:** Deliver agreed local communication strategies in coordination with regional UKHSA communications teams.
2. UKHSA Regions should be aware of the [Hot weather and health: guidance and advice webpage](#) mentioned above and should support Directors of Public Health and other local stakeholders as appropriate. For each Heat-health alert, they should refer to actions outlined in the [AWHP](#) and mentioned guidance.
3. UKHSA Regions must registered to receive Weather Health Alerts: [click here](#)

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Sites and Services

1. **Extreme Events and Health Protection (EEHP):**
 - Provides specialist technical advice on heat-related health effects.
 - Monitors concurrent seasonal risks.
 - Coordinates with the National Response Centre (NRC) if incidents escalate.
 - Supports cross-government coordination via the Cabinet Office COBR-chaired Summer Resilience Network.



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2. **National Response Centre (NRC):**
 - Manages incident response during declared UKHSA standard or enhanced incidents.
 3. **Communications Team:**
 - Coordinates proactive and reactive media activity.
 4. **Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team (ReSST):**
 - Analyses health surveillance data to monitor impacts during heat episodes.
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Implications & Recommendations for Local Authorities, LRFs, LHRPs, and NHS England

1. **All partner organisations should:**
 - Review the **Adverse Weather and Health Plan** to ensure familiarity with heat-related guidance and the Weather-Health Alerting System.
 - **Local Resilience Forums (LRFs):**
 - Assess and prepare for operational impacts of hot weather and extreme heat.
 - **Local Health Resilience Partnerships (LHRPs):**
 - Review local adverse weather plans.
 - Ensure Heat-Health Alerts are effectively distributed to relevant health and social care providers.
 - **Local Authorities:**
 - Confirm readiness of stakeholders and partners to act upon Heat-Health Alerts.
 - Consider training social care, housing, and frontline staff on heat risks.
 - Conduct home visits to identify and protect vulnerable individuals.
 - **Health and Wellbeing Boards:**
 - Incorporate long-term heat-health protection strategies into joint strategic needs assessments and health strategies.
 - Be prepared for concurrent risks (e.g., thunderstorms during heatwaves), contacting UKHSA communications as necessary for guidance.
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References/ Sources of information

- Further hot weather advice for the public is available from the [NHS heatwave advice](#) and the Met Office [WeatherReady campaign](#).
- For those who were unable to attend, we are sharing the link to the [pre-recorded session](#) and the [live Q&A session](#) for the UKHSA Summer Preparedness Stakeholder webinar 2025 to help partners prepare for the hot weather season and highlight the updated AWWHP materials
- Stakeholders may find it helpful to refer to our latest research and analysis this season, including research into the [experiences of social care during summer 2022](#), and the latest [heat mortality monitoring report](#).