



ADVISORY FOR STATES/UTs

Public Health Preparedness for El Nino Conditions

National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH)

Purpose. To support States/UTs in anticipating, preparing for and responding to the direct and indirect health consequences of El Nino-associated heat, drought, water stress, heavy rainfall, floods and other extreme weather events, while maintaining continuity of essential health services.

BACKGROUND

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated the likelihood of moderate to strong El Niño conditions during the 2026 southwest monsoon season. These conditions may increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, drought, water scarcity, heavy rainfall, floods and other extreme weather events in different parts of the country. States/UTs are advised to initiate appropriate public health preparedness measures and closely monitor the evolving situation in accordance with the accompanying **Guidance Note on Public Health Preparedness for El Niño Conditions**

States/UTs are advised to:

1. **Review district preparedness** for anticipated heat, drought, heavy rainfall, floods and other extreme weather events.
2. **Review IMD forecasts daily** and disseminate weather and health alerts promptly to all districts and health facilities on Heat/ Droughts/ Rainfall/ Floods.
3. **Ensure health facility readiness**, including availability of essential medicines, ORS, IV fluids, oxygen, diagnostics, electricity, water supply and continuity of essential health services.
4. **Strengthen surveillance** for heat-related illnesses through the **IHIP–NPCCHH Heat-Related Illness Surveillance Portal** for at least till 30th September 2026 and intensify surveillance for climate-sensitive diseases.
5. **Keep Rapid Response Teams, referral hospitals and ambulance services** ready to respond to public health emergencies associated with extreme weather events.
6. **Protect vulnerable populations**, particularly older persons, children, pregnant women, outdoor workers, persons with chronic diseases, and populations living in climate-vulnerable areas.
7. **Maintain enhanced monitoring of the 100 Heat-vulnerable districts** identified under NPCCHH and ensure timely reporting of significant public health events.
8. **Strengthen intersectoral coordination** with Disaster Management Authorities and other relevant departments to support a coordinated response.