

**National Centre for Disease Control
Directorate Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
22-Sham Nath Marg, Civil Lines, New Delhi**

Advisory for State Health Department on Heat Wave Season 2023

As of February 2023, above normal seasonal maximum temperatures are observed over some North-western and Central regions. To reduce morbidity and mortality due to extreme heat and climatic conditions, health department must undertake appropriate measures in advance.

State Nodal Officers under National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) must ensure following activities:

1. Dissemination of following guidelines to all districts:
 - National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses, MoHFW and
 - National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines for preparation of action plan for prevention and management of heat wave.
2. Implement **Heat-Health Action Plan**, a chapter of State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health at State level
 - Support drafting and implementation at district and city-level
3. Meeting with **State Task Force on Climate Change and Human Health**
 - Organized a task force meeting for update and approval of the heat-health action plan at State level. This plan should detail the ‘**Standard Operating Procedures**’ which shall be in place during heat wave season
 - The health sector heat action plan prepared shall be incorporated in State Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health (SAPCCHH) and a copy of this may be sent to State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) or Relief Commissioner Department for incorporation in State Action Plan on heat wave.
3. Conduction of meeting of **District Task Force on Climate Change and Human Health**
 - For development of health sector heat action plan at District level. This plan should detail the ‘**Standard Operating Procedures**’ which will be in place during heat wave season
4. **Surveillance on heat related illnesses (HRI)**
 - Start the HRI surveillance on **March 01, 2023** on **IHIP portal under National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health**
 - Data of the heatstroke cases and deaths and emergency OPD and total deaths in the health facilities should be entered in the designated form through existing P-form level entry and submitted daily.
 - Ensure maintenance of line list of Heat Stroke cases and Heat Stroke deaths (suspected/confirmed) at health facility/hospital level in given formats
 - Ensure all medical officers are aware of heat-related illness identification, management and reporting.
 - Coordination with State and District Disaster Management Authority (SDMA/DDMA) on reporting of HRI deaths at village level.

- Ensure proper filling of format for “**Investigation of Suspected Heat Related Illness Death**” by medical officer/epidemiologist for each suspected heat-related illness deaths (attached) (detail in [National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses](#), MoHFW).

5. Dissemination of early warning: India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues exclusively heat-related warnings daily at around 1600 hours IST with forecast for next four days during heat wave season. SNO and DNO shall identify the heat vulnerable population/hotspots based on surveillance data and send advisories as per the colour coded recommendations in NDMA guidelines.

6. **Issue health advisories and plan IEC activities** from time to time to make the public aware about the precautions taken to safeguard against heat wave. IEC material on heat wave for general and vulnerable population prepared by NCDC is available. (<https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=3&sublinkid=1091&lid=556>). It can be used as template to prepare IEC at State after translation in regional language, if needed.

7. **Sensitization and capacity building** of health staff and workers of health facilities on heat illness, i.e., HRI symptoms, management and reporting. A session on HRI identification, first aid, referral and reporting may be kept for ANMs and ASHAs in various types of training organized for them at the district and block level. Training manuals for Nodal Officer, Medical Officers, Community Health Workers and Community published by NPCHH should be utilized for the trainings (<https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=2&sublinkid=922&lid=697>)

8. **Health facility preparedness for prevention and management of HRI**

- Procurement and supply of adequate quantities of ORS packs, essential medicines, IV fluids, ice-packs, and equipments to support management of volume depletion and electrolyte imbalance etc.
- Ensure availability of sufficient drinking water at all health facilities.
- Ensure sufficient availability of cooling appliances and their functioning.
- Equipping ambulance with ice packs and cold water for early management of HRI cases.
- Cases with suspected heat stroke should be rapidly assessed using standard treatment protocols.

9. **Health facility resiliency to extreme heat**

- Coordinate with electricity distribution company/corporation for uninterrupted electricity supply to hospitals for constant functioning of cooling appliances.
- Adopt measures to reduce indoor heat and energy conservation in the health facilities like cool roof/green roof, window shading, rainwater harvesting, solarization etc and to provide shade outside the health facilities in heat-hotspot regions as per NPCCHH programme PIP guidelines.

For further information kindly refer to following:

1. National Health Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses. Available at: <https://ncdc.gov.in/WriteReadData/linkimages/NationActionplanonHeatRelatedIllnesses.pdf>

2. Guidelines for preparation of action plan- prevention and management of heat wave, 2019. National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India. Available at: <https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/Guidelines/heatwaveguidelines.pdf>
3. Ahmedabad heat action plan 2019. Guide to extreme heat planning in Ahmedabad, India. Amdavad Municipal Corporation. Available at: <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/ahmedabad-heat-action-plan-2018.pdf>
4. World Health Organization. Public Health Advice on Heatwave
Available at: https://www.who.int/health-topics/heatwaves#tab=tab_1