

# **Heat wave Management :**

## **Preparedness and response through Heat Action Plan**



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# Why develop a Heat-Health Action Plan

- Increasing trend of heat wave (9 states in 2015 to 23 states in 2020) and peoples are affected on health
- Increasing frequency, intensity and duration of heat wave and attributed cause of deaths(WHO)
- Increasing vulnerability (mostly weaker section in the society)
- The Impact of extreme event of heat wave on human health mortality; (Heat related illness and deaths are avoidable).
- Climate change needs to climate action including health sector

# Preparation of Action Plan for Health Sector

- Follows the NDMA Guidelines to develop Heat Action Plan
- Vulnerability Assessment and Establishing Heat-Health Threshold
- Generating a heat wave risk and vulnerability map for developing a strategic action to be taken.
- To develop a symptoms and first aid for various heat wave disorders (including heat rash, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke etc)
- Identification of heat wave illness and systematically recorded causalities
- Integrating heat action plan with development plan.
- Development plans should be focus on reducing heat stress of the peoples

# Preparedness and Mitigation measures

- Hospital preparedness & mitigation measures to all Health Care Centre
- Formulation of Schemes and program for heat-health safety
- Develop a monitoring mechanism for heat -health preparedness at state/district and panchayat level
- Preparedness of the heat health and social care system
- Create sufficient heat health facilities Centre with adequate provision of basic medicine like ORS, Glucose etc.

# Hospital Preparedness Measures for Managing Heat related Illness

- A detailed action plan to tackle heat-related illnesses well in advance of hotter months.
- Operational framework - preparing specific health adaptation plan, development of guidelines and response plan for climate sensitive diseases (CSD).
- Need for updating heat health action plan, and issuing advisories for hospital preparedness, surveillance and weekly monitoring, including capacity building.
- Long-term measures such as adopting cool roofs, improving green/forest coverage and analysing health impacts in urban planning.
- Standard Operating procedures to tackle all levels of heat-related illnesses. Capacity building measures for doctors, nurses and others staff should be undertaken.
- Cases with suspected heat stroke should be rapidly assessed using standard Treatment Protocols.

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- Identify surge capacities and mark the beds dedicated to treat heat stroke victims and enhance emergency department preparedness to handle more patients.
- Identify RRT (Rapid Response Teams) to respond to any exigency call outside the hospitals.
- Ensure adequate arrangements of Staff, Beds, IV fluids, ORS, essential medicines and equipment to cater to management of volume depletion and electrolyte imbalance.
- May try to establish outreach clinics at various locations easily accessible to the vulnerable population to reduce the number of cases affected. Health Centers must undertake awareness campaigns for neighbourhood communities using different means of information dissemination.
- Hospitals must ensure proper networking with nearby facilities and medical centres to share the patient load which exceeds their surge capacities.
- All cases of heat-related illnesses (suspected or confirmed) should be reported to IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme) unit of the district.

# Response measures

- Develop a monitoring mechanism for medical preparedness and support system
- Surveillance of heat wave impact,
- Inter-agency coordination with all stakeholders
- Provision of funds for heat wave mitigation measure and health infrastructure
- Standardized collection of granular data
- Development a proper data sharing strategy among all stakeholders.
- Develop a Standard protocol for death investigation.
- Adopt uniform process for registration of casualties/ deaths due to heat wave based on the post mortem report, death count, type of disease, time and duration.
- Yearly improvisation of heat wave plan through response and feedback data collection.

# Capacity building

- Develop training module for different qualification at different level and conduct proper training program for different stakeholders
- Conduct capacity building and training program as per domain and expertise of department.
- Heat wave management should be added in school curriculum to sensitize school children and local people.



# Awareness generation

- IEC Campaign to create awareness through
  - Print media,
  - Electronic media,
  - Social media platform - (Facebook, twitter, Linked, whatsapp groups etc) on regular basis.
- IEC campaign material (Public advertisement, Poster, Pamphlets and TVCs)

# NDMA Action

- NDMA issued Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave’ in 2016 and revised in 2017 and 2019 including long term mitigation measures
- NDMA organized national workshop annually on heat wave
- **Hazard analysis of heat wave** including wind speed, wind direction, night temperature and consecutive heat days to issuing forecast warning 2021 by IMD;
- **NDMA wrote a letter to Election Commission** to take all possible measures towards heat risk reduction during the five state assembly elections in summer season;
- **NDMA wrote a letter to all DGP of states** to take necessary action to reduce the vulnerability of police personnel (especially for traffic police on duty) to heat wave;
- **NDMA share Bihar Rural Fire Mitigation plan** to all states to take prevention measures of fire during heat wave season.
- **NDMA issued special Advisory, Do’s and Don’ts in related to COVID-19;**

# ... Conted...NDMA Action

- **NDMA issued seasonal outlook advisory** of heat wave with heat prone states
- **Review of heat wave preparedness through Video Conferencing**
- **NDMA launched a Cool roof Challenge** as campaign mode
- **NDMA constituted an IEC committee** for to help awareness generation and information dissemination activities;
- **NDMA shared modified IEC campaign material** (Public advertisement, Poster, Pamphlets and TVCs) with states;
- **NDMA shared TVCs for heat wave** awareness campaign with states and all stakeholders;
- **Awareness Generation** campaign at various social media platforms (Facebook, twitter, Linked, whatsapp groups etc) on regular basis
- **NDMA additional letter to State Governments**-the persons having heat wave related illnesses may become more vulnerable to COVID-19.
- **NDMA issued a Manual on House Owners' Guide to Alternate Roof Cooling Solutions, April 2021**

**Thanks**