

Warming/Cooling Centre Guidelines

Heat and Cold Warnings

Lambton Public Health (LPH) monitors the Environment and Climate Change Canada forecast for extreme heat and cold events.

A **Heat Warning** is issued when one or both of the following conditions are met:

- Two consecutive days where the temperature is forecasted to be 31°C or higher during the day and 20°C or higher overnight;
- Two consecutive days where the humidex is forecasted to be 40°C or higher.

An **Extended Heat Warning** is issued when the event is forecasted to last longer than two days and continues for three or more days.

A Heat Warning will always be issued first followed (after two days) by an **Extended Heat Warning** in a staged approach.

A **Cold Warning** is issued when one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada forecasts daily predicted low temperature of -15° Celsius without wind chill;
- The wind chill reaches the level at which Environment and Climate Change Canada issues an Extreme Cold Warning; or
- Extreme weather conditions, such as a blizzard or ice storm.

Warming/Cooling Centres

Warming/Cooling Centres are pre-designated locations that become activated when Extreme Temperature Warnings are issued. They are intended to provide space for the public to get temporary, short-term relief from the heat/cold. These locations are offered throughout Lambton County by community partners including recreation centres, health centres, libraries, and other public and municipal buildings.

Guidelines for Warming/Cooling Centre Locations:

1. LPH provides information about warming/cooling centre locations on the LPH website at LambtonPublicHealth.ca. This source is maintained and used as a reference point in subsequent news releases issued for heat and cold warnings.
2. Warming/Cooling Centres become activated when a heat/cold warning is issued. Community partners operating a location will be notified of the warning through an email from Lambton Public Health.

LPH will collect contact information for two individuals from each location – one primary contact and one backup.
3. Community partners will advertise their location as a Cooling/Warming Centre with a poster provided by Lambton Public Health.

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4. LPH will advertise each location's normal hours of operation (as provided) or through a direct website link to your organization. Cooling/Warming Centres are not expected to remain open beyond normal hours of operation.
5. Warming/Cooling Centres are not available for extended or overnight stays. Individuals experiencing homelessness who require additional support or emergency shelter will be supported through emergency shelter assistance coordinated through The Good Shepherd Lodge and Ontario Works:
<https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/resident-services/emergency-assistance.aspx#NO>
6. Cooling centre locations must offer accessible air-conditioned space and warming centre locations must offer accessible heated space. Seating must be available.
7. Locations are not required to offer extra amenities or services above what they already provide. The public is encouraged to bring refreshments and water as well as activities with them.
8. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
9. No pets are permitted. Individuals can cool down/warm up with their pets at the Sarnia and District Humane Society (SPCA). Call 519-344-7064 for more information.
10. Cooling/Warming Centres will be asked to track the number of visits for program planning and monitoring purposes. No personal information is to be collected, only the approximate number of visitors.
11. LPH will contact cooling/warming centre community partners each consecutive day that a heat/cold warning is in effect.
12. Cooling/Warming Centres will be reviewed annually with community partners.

For more information on cooling and warming centres please contact Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 ext. 3812 or publichealth@county-lambton.on.ca.