

July 20, 2011

Dear Kidney Community Partners,

The City of Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management shared with us the following Excessive Heat Warning. Although this information concerns the City of Philadelphia, we felt that a heat advisory is pertinent to the entire Network 4 area.

### **Excessive Heat Warning**

The National Weather Service has issued an Excessive Heat Warning, which is in effect from noon today (Wednesday 7/20) through 8 pm Friday. The warning may be extended into the weekend as the excessive heat and humidity will continue.

The combination of temperatures approaching or exceeding 100 degrees and high humidity will create dangerous heat index values.

Heat index values will be around 100 this afternoon, near 105 Thursday afternoon and up to 110 Friday afternoon.

Conditions at night will remain rather warm and humid, especially in the highly urbanized areas where low temperatures may not drop below 80 degrees.

If the forecast verifies, this will be the worst heat wave in Philadelphia in at least several years. July 2010 saw temperatures over 100 degrees but with much lower humidity.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health is the lead agency for the City of Philadelphia on heat-related outreach and preparedness. In conjunction with the National Weather Service's Excessive Heat Warning for the region, Philadelphia Health Commissioner Donald F. Schwarz, has issued a Warning for Philadelphia beginning Wednesday, July 20, at noon. The warning signals the activation of the City's special summer heat programs, including home visits by special field teams, operation of the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's 'Heatline', enhanced daytime outreach for the homeless, and the City's effort to encourage the public to look in on older friends, relatives, and neighbors.

The 'Heatline' (215-765-9040) will be in operation from noon through midnight.

The Health Department urges the public to visit older friends, relatives and neighbors to ensure that air conditioners or fans are working and homes are adequately ventilated. In a heatwave, the majority of the victims are older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

The Office of Emergency Management website at <http://www.phila.gov/ready> has an interactive map of cooling centers available to the public along with other preparedness tips.

For forecast updates, refer to the National Weather Service website at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>

#### **Additional Resources:**

- [Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency](#)
- Article from the City of Pittsburgh [Rising Temperatures and Humidity Prompt Health](#)

[Alert](#)

- [Delaware Emergency Management Agency](#)
- Article from the Delaware Emergency Management Agency [Precautions Urged During Extreme Heat](#)

May you, your family, and the patients you serve stay cool and healthy this summer.

Best regards,

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