



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

519 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY, 10018

Phone: 212-643-2828 Fax: 212-643-2956 www.gnyhcfa.org

Memo 23-21

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist and QA Committee

**From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance and
Arlette A Drigpaul, MSN RN Infection Preventionist/Education Coordinator**

Date: July 25, 2023

Re: NYS DOH Heat Advisory

As summer continues, New York is likely to see extended periods of high temperatures and humidity. Please review your facility policies and procedures for the prevention of heat emergencies and provide in-service to all staff to ensure all staff are knowledgeable and prepared to prevent and manage potential and actual heat emergencies. In-service should include signs, symptoms and consequences of heat prostration (e.g. gradual weakness, excessive sweating, fainting), heat stroke (e.g., headache, weakness, sudden loss of consciousness) and heat cramps (e.g., severe cramps and spasms in the arms, legs, and/or abdomen).

It is also an advantageous time to ensure that your generator is in good working order and ready to function during potential power outages that may take place due to summer storms and other unexpected occurrences).

[Here](#), you will find the 2023 NYS DOH Heat Advisory.

For residents going outdoors, ensure that you follow any Heat Advisories and adjust plans as needed. Facilities should monitor temperatures, as needed, in any areas utilized by the facility where residents may congregate.

Please be mindful that Summer is a high-risk season for residents with a history of wandering behavior. Staff/Receptionist/Security should remain vigilant and immediately notify the RN Supervisor of any observed “exit-seeking behavior” – this includes ongoing restlessness and agitation, verbal expression of desire to leave, and actual attempts to leave the unit/facility.

Please contact the Association if you have any questions.

Thank You,
GNYHCFA Team