
GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 26-08

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Director of Building Services, Maintenance, QA Committee, Owners and Operators

From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance and John Kerney, Life Safety Consultant

Date: January 28, 2026

Re: Cold Weather

As much of New York State is being impacted by colder than normal weather, GNYHCFA wanted to encourage facilities to monitor areas in your building with minimal heat. Sprinkler and standpipe systems in these areas may need to install heat tape to reduce chance of freezing and pipe ruptures. In non-patient areas heaters whose heating elements do not go over 200 Fahrenheit can be used. These are commonly oiled filled heaters.

Additionally, we recommend monitoring room temperatures for residents more frequently during this time. As a reminder, regulations require nursing homes to be equipped with a heating system capable of maintaining all resident areas at a minimum temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit. However, occupied areas are not required to be kept at these temperatures if residents are comfortable at a lower temperature. If low room temperatures are identified, individual body temperatures should be monitored to ensure there is no risk of hypothermia to the resident. Nursing homes should be cognizant of the needs and wishes of each resident and assure that a safe and appropriate temperature is provided.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Association with any questions.