

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOH-Monroe Urges Public To Take Precautions During Heat Advisory

(Monroe County, Fla) – The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County is urging residents to take necessary precautions and follow safety measures during the current heat advisory. With temperatures soaring and heat indexes reaching dangerous levels, it is important to prioritize the well-being of individuals and communities.

The National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory forecasting high temperatures and humidity that pose health risks. DOH-Monroe recognizes the importance of raising awareness and promoting measures to ensure the safety of residents during extreme weather conditions.

During this heat advisory, DOH-Monroe recommends the following safety measures to minimize the risk of heat-related illnesses and emergencies:

Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they can lead to dehydration.

Stay cool. Avoid direct sunlight and long exposure to the sun. Spend time in air-conditioned environments. If you do not have access to air conditioning, consider visiting public buildings or public spaces with shade. Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing to help your body regulate its temperature. Protect your head and face with a wide-brimmed hat and use sunscreen to prevent sunburn. Minimize outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day. If you must be outside, take frequent breaks in shaded areas and avoid strenuous physical exertion.

Check on vulnerable individuals. Keep an eye on elderly neighbors, young children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions, as they are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Ensure they have access to a cool environment and sufficient hydration.

Never leave children, vulnerable individuals, or pets unattended in a vehicle. Temperatures inside a parked car can rise rapidly, even with the windows slightly open, and can be life-threatening.

DOH-Monroe urges everyone to remain vigilant and look out for one another during this heat advisory. By following these safety measures, we can collectively reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses and emergencies.

Stay informed about the heat advisory by following the National Weather Service or your local news. For further information about heat related health issues, please visit <https://monroe.floridahealth.gov>.

All Monroe County libraries will function as cooling centers during their normal business hours. Library card not required for entry. Library policies must be followed while on premises.

- **Key West Branch Library** - 700 Fleming Street
- **Big Pine Branch Library** - 213 Key Deer Boulevard
- **Marathon Branch Library** - 3490 Overseas Highway
- **Islamorada Branch Library** - 81830 Overseas Highway
- **Key Largo Branch Library** – 101485 Overseas Highway

For hours of operation, please visit <https://keyslibraries.org/locations>.

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About the Florida Department of Health

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