

Health Advisory:

Reporting of Heat-Related Illnesses and Deaths

July 10, 2015

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.health.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: GAIL VASTERLING
DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: Reporting of Heat-Related Illnesses and Deaths

As the summer begins to heat up with higher temperatures and increased humidity, we would like to remind clinicians that heat-related illness (i.e., Hyperthermia) is a reportable condition in Missouri.

According to Missouri State Regulations 19 CSR 20-20, Hyperthermia is “a physician-diagnosed case of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.” According to the same regulation, heat exhaustion “means a reaction to excessive heat marked by prostration, weakness and collapse resulting from dehydration.” Heat stroke “means a severe illness caused by exposure to excessively high temperatures and characterized by severe headache; high fever with a dry, hot skin; tachycardia; and in serious cases, collapse, coma or death.”

Although the chief complaint may be cardiac or respiratory in nature, please interview the patient to see if environmental heat, i.e. inside or outside temperature, may be a factor. If the diagnosis includes Hyperthermia, report the condition using the [Disease Case Report Form \(CD-1\)](#) or the [Heat-Related Illness Form](#) and fax or email it to your local public health agency. Suspected heat-related deaths must be reported immediately.

The following website provides additional information on heat-related illness and prevention:

<http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/hyperthermia/heatprecautions.php>

If you have any questions, please contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology at 573/751-6102 or 866/628-9891.

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