



Dangerously Cold Weather Returns This Week

For Immediate Release:

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DES MOINES, IOWA – Thursday, February 07, 2019 – The City of Des Moines is currently experiencing another round of dangerously cold temperatures that will continue into Friday, Feb. 8. While this cold episode will not be as prolonged as last week's and wind chill values will not be as extreme, these wind chills can still be hazardous to dangerous if precautions are not taken. Residents are reminded to avoid exposure to the extreme cold and to take precautions if they absolutely must be outside.

During cold or other extreme weather events, the City of Des Moines activates event-specific plans and coordinates with Polk County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA) and surrounding community partners to efficiently assist citizens. This coordination also includes monitoring local shelter capacities, participating in metro-wide efforts, and sharing web-based information/education resources. The following information can assist you to be prepared for the cold.

Getting Warm

During extreme cold weather events, the following sheltering strategy should be used when persons cannot escape the cold. 1. Hotel/motel; 2. Warming centers, as needed; 3. Use of existing local shelters, as needed; 4. Activation of a county-wide shelter during the most extreme events.

To find temporary relief from the cold, residents are encouraged to utilize warming centers, businesses and facilities that are normally open to the public during their regular business hours, such as shopping malls, that have public restroom facilities. Warming centers are not staffed to provide services, but they are safe places to get warm. The City has identified the following warming centers as possible options:

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Southridge Mall 1111 E. Army Post Rd.	12 p.m. – 6 p.m.	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.					
Merle Hay Mall 3800 Merle Hay Rd.	12 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.					
Central Library 1000 Grand Ave.	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	9 a.m. – 8 p.m.			9 a.m. – 6 p.m.		Closed
East Side Library 2559 Hubbell Ave.	Closed	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.		Closed	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Forest Ave. Library 1326 Forest Ave.	Closed	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Franklin Ave. Library 5000 Franklin Ave.	Closed	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.		10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
North Side Library 3516 Fifth Ave.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.		10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
South Side Library 1111 Porter Ave.	Closed	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Local Shelters

- **Central Iowa Shelter and Services (CISS), 1420 Mulberry, Des Moines**
Currently operating in its weather amnesty status and has surge capacity available. During the weather amnesty status, at 10 degrees, individuals who may not normally be able to seek services can come in. They may do so 48 hours before and after projected cold temperatures.
- **Bethel Mission, 1310 6th Avenue, Des Moines**
Currently operating in its weather amnesty status, reached when temperatures reach 32 degrees, and has surge capacity available. Polk County Health Services is assisting with mental health evaluations at CISS and Bethel Mission.

Partnering Agencies Efforts

- **JOPPA** and **Primary Health Care (PHC)** are performing outreach to ensure individuals are aware that warming and other services are available now.
- **DART** is assisting by providing free transport for individuals needing to get to CISS, Bethel Mission, or identified or routinely open warming centers.

Cold Weather Resources and Information

Learn how to make an emergency kit, make an emergency plan, be informed about extreme weather hazards, and sign up for the CodeRED automated notification system on Polk County's website:

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness/>

About the City of Des Moines

The City of Des Moines: Iowa's capital city and local government servicing more than 217,000 residents, 51+ neighborhoods, over 4000 acres of parkland and 81 miles of trails. The City of Des Moines stands to be a financially strong city with exceptional city services, fostering an involved community in a customer friendly atmosphere. Visit <http://www.dmgov.org/>, Facebook <http://facebook.com/DesMoinesGov> and Twitter @DesMoinesGov for more information.

– 30 –

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