

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**#54-18**

**NYC COOLING CENTERS OPEN SATURDAY AS THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY  
CONTINUE**

*Cooling centers will be open across the city through Saturday. To find the nearest location call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/beattheheat](http://www.nyc.gov/beattheheat)*

**August 17, 2018** — As the heat and humidity continue to affect New York City to begin the weekend, the New York City Emergency Management Department today announced that cooling centers will remain open through Saturday, August 18. Cooling centers are air-conditioned facilities such as libraries, community centers, senior centers, and NYCHA facilities that are open to the public during heat emergencies. To find a cooling center, including accessible facilities closest to you, call 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115) or visit the NYC Cooling Center Finder at [www.nyc.gov/beattheheat](http://www.nyc.gov/beattheheat).

According to the latest National Weather Service forecast, temperatures Saturday will be in the upper 80s, with heat index values in the low to mid-90s.

“It is important to take precautions to beat the heat. Drink lots of water, use air conditioning or visit a cooling center, and avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**.

The New York City Emergency Management Department urges New Yorkers to take steps to protect themselves and help others who may be at increased risk from the heat. Those at increased risk are people who do not have or use air conditioning AND:

- Are 65 years or older;
- Have chronic medical, mental health, or cognitive/developmental conditions;
- Take certain medications, which can disrupt the regulation of body temperature;
- Are confined to their beds, have limited mobility, or are unable to leave their homes;
- Are obese; or
- Misuse alcohol or drugs.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE HEAT:**

- Stay out of the sun and avoid extreme temperature changes.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Drink fluids, particularly water, even if you do not feel thirsty. Your body needs water to keep cool. Those on fluid-restricted diets or taking diuretics should first consult their physician.
- Water is the safest liquid to drink during heat emergencies. Avoid beverages containing alcohol and/or caffeine.

- Eat small, frequent meals.
- Avoid strenuous activity, especially during the sun's peak hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m.
- If possible, go to an air-conditioned location for several hours during the hottest parts of the day.
- Cool down with a cool bath or shower.
- Participate in activities that will keep you cool, such as going to the movies, shopping at a mall, or swimming at a pool or beach.
- Cover all exposed skin with an SPF sunscreen (15 or above) and wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face and head.
- Never leave your children or pets in the car.

For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health).

### **FACTS ABOUT HEAT ILLNESS:**

Heat illness is serious. Prolonged exposure to the heat can be harmful and potentially fatal. The added stress caused by heat can also aggravate heart or lung disease even without symptoms of heat illness.

Know the warning signs of heat stress. If you or someone you know feels weak or faint, go to a cool place and drink water. If there is no improvement, call a doctor or 911.

Call 911 immediately if you have, or someone you know has:

- Hot dry skin.
- Trouble breathing.
- Rapid heartbeat.
- Confusion, disorientation, or dizziness.
- Nausea and vomiting.

### **KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE**

- **Avoid dehydration:** Pets can dehydrate quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water.
- **Exercise early and late:** When the temperature is very high, do not let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Your pet's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn.
- **Know when your pet is in danger:** Symptoms of overheating in pets include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor, or even collapse. Animals with flat faces like pugs and Persian cats are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. They should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

- **Keep cats safe by installing screens in your windows:** Unscreened windows pose a real danger to cats, as they can fall out of them often during summer months.

**IMPROPER FIRE HYDRANT USE:**

The improper opening of fire hydrants wastes 1,000 gallons of water per minute, causes flooding on city streets, and can lower water pressure to dangerous levels and hamper the ability of FDNY to fight fire safely and quickly.

Properly used “spray caps” reduce hydrant output to a safe 25 gallons per minute while still providing relief from the heat. To obtain a spray cap, an adult 18 years or older with proper identification can go to his or her local firehouse and request one.

For more information, visit [NYC.gov/beattheheat](http://NYC.gov/beattheheat). New Yorkers are encouraged to sign up for Notify NYC, the City’s free emergency communications program. To sign up for Notify NYC, download the [free mobile application](#), visit [NYC.gov/NotifyNYC](http://NYC.gov/NotifyNYC), call 311, or follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Omar Bourne [\(718\) 422-4888](tel:(718)422-4888)

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