



Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE  
Commissioner of Health

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Milwaukee Health Department Issues Cold Weather Health Alert**  
*Officials remind residents to take precautions as extreme cold temperatures  
are predicted for Milwaukee*

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) remind residents to take precautions as extreme cold temperatures and wind chills move into the area.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued an alert for the area, stating that cold temperatures and brisk winds may result in wind chills that could reach 20 to 35 degrees below zero Sunday night into Monday morning, and 35 to 50 degrees below zero Monday night into Tuesday morning. **A wind chill advisory begins 12 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, through 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27. A wind chill warning begins 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, through 12 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28.**

“As extreme cold temperatures move into the area, I urge all residents to take the threat seriously,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “With dangerously low temperatures, common activities can quickly become life-threatening. We ask all residents to take appropriate precautions during this period.”

“Extreme temperatures can create serious health hazards,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. “The combination of bitterly cold temperatures and wind can lead to frostbite or life-threatening hypothermia.”

To remain safe during extreme cold weather, the MHD offers these tips:

- Minimize the time spent outdoors. If you do go outside, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and dress in layers. Ensure exposed skin is covered, including your fingers, nose, and ears.
- Make a car survival kit that includes blankets, extra clothing and high-energy foods, and ensure that your vehicle’s fuel tank is at least half-full and the battery is charged.
- Be aware of the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite can occur within minutes when unprotected skin is exposed to very cold temperatures, causing the affected area to appear white or grayish-yellow in color and feel firm or waxy. Hypothermia is life-threatening, and occurs when the body temperature drops too low, causing shivering, drowsiness, clumsiness and confusion. Both require immediate medical treatment.
- Heat your home with devices approved for indoor use, and ensure they are properly vented to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning or fires. Never use wood-burning or coal-burning grills, camp stoves, or other outdoor devices indoors.

*Think Health. Act Now!*



- Keep pets safe by bringing them inside and ensuring trips outside are brief.

During cold weather, check on family members and neighbors who may be at risk for illness or injuries, especially young children, the elderly, and those with certain medical conditions.

For further information, visit [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health) or call 286-CITY. For non-emergency assistance, dial 211.

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