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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Milwaukee Health Department Reminds Residents to Take Precautions as Temperatures Drop

Cold temperatures and wind chills predicted, residents reminded to take seasonal precautions

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is reminding all residents to take precautions as single-digit temperatures and below zero wind chills possibly move into the area starting December 23, 2017.

“Cold winter weather is officially arriving. As we see temperatures much more typical for this time of year, I urge all residents to remember common sense safety steps,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “Taking simple precautions can prevent injuries and save lives.”

Temperatures are estimated to reach the single digits or teens, with below zero wind chills as we move into the holiday weekend. As the first cold wave of the season settles in, it is important to be prepared as temperatures begin to fall.

“Extreme cold temperatures can create serious health hazards,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. “Whether heading outdoors or remaining indoors, we urge all area residents to follow our safety tips.”

The City of Milwaukee Health Department encourages community members to take extra precaution when travelling, limit outdoor activity whenever possible, and keep the following tips in mind to stay warm, and safe for the holidays:

- When heading outdoors, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Prepare a cold weather emergency kit to keep in your car and include: blankets, extra clothing, high energy foods, and first aid.
- Always wear appropriate clothing and ensure that exposed skin is covered, including fingers, nose, and ears.
- If idling cars, only do so in well-ventilated, open garages.
- Heat your home with devices approved for indoor use. Outdoor devices such as wood-burning or coal-burning grills, camp stoves, or other devices should not be used. Never use a stovetop or oven to heat your home.
- If you have pets, bring them inside and ensure trips outside are brief.

During cold weather, it is also very important to check on family members and neighbors who may be at risk for cold-weather illness or injuries, especially young children, the elderly, and those with chronic illness. More information on cold-weather safety can be found online at www.milwaukee.gov/coldweathersafety.

Dial 2-1-1 for information about places to stay warm, including warming shelter options that are available.

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Think Health. Act Now!

