

Chief Health Officer Alert

17 January 2014

Status: Active

Heat Health Alert – Monday 13 to Saturday 18 January 2014 (updated)

Status: Active

Date issued: 17 January 2014 – This is an update to the previous Alert issued 16 January 2014.

Issued by: Dr Rosemary Lester, Chief Health Officer, Victoria

Issued to: Local government authorities, health and aged sector, government departments and agencies, service providers and community groups.

Key messages

- This alert has now been updated (17 January 2014) to include **East Gippsland District for Friday 17 January** and **North East District for Saturday 18 January**.
- This is an **alert** only, to advise of forecast heatwave conditions.
- You and your organisation are encouraged to continue monitoring local conditions and to respond accordingly through your existing service continuity, heatwave or other relevant action plans. All forecasts and current temperatures are available from the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au

What is the issue?

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast temperatures above heat health thresholds for the week of **Monday 13 to Saturday 17 January 2014**. This Alert provides a summary of the predicted mean temperatures across Victoria.

Note that the predicted mean temperatures for these districts are expected to meet the heat health temperature threshold of (30, 32 & 34°C) due to high overnight minimum temperatures. Daily maximum temperatures are expected to **reach 44°C across most of Victoria during this week**.

Who is at risk?

Temperature thresholds exceeded (per Victorian district) for 13 – 18 January 2014						
District	Mon 13 Jan	Tues 14 Jan	Wed 15 Jan	Thurs 16 Jan	Fri 17 Jan	Sat 18 Jan
Central (30°C)						
North East (32°C)						
East Gippsland (30°C)						
Northern Country (32°C)						
South West (30°C)						
West & South Gippsland (30°C)						
Mallee (34°C)						
North Central (30°C)						
Wimmera (32°C)						

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Prevention

The Department of Health is issuing this alert in order to allow you to make any preparations necessary to respond to heatwave conditions given the many impacts hot weather can have on human health, normal operations and essential services.

More information

Clinical information

Heat health alerts will be available from the Chief Health Officer website at:

www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefhealthofficer/index.htm

The weather forecast districts and associated heat health thresholds are detailed in the Heat health alert system 2013-14 information and guidance at: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/heatwaves-alert.htm

Consumer information

Heat stress and heat-related illness – Better Health Channel:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Heat_stress_and_heat-related_illness

Additional information, including communication resources, is available at:

www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/heatwave/index.htm

Contacts

Specific queries may be directed to Environmental Health, Department of Health on 1300 761 874 or

Environmental.healthunit@health.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Dr Rosemary Lester

Chief Health Officer

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne.