

**Public Health**  
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[toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health)

Re: Protecting tenants during hot weather

I am writing to encourage you to participate in the City's Hot Weather Response Plan by developing a "Hot Weather Protection Plan" for your building. This plan will help save lives during periods of very hot weather in Toronto.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) and its community partners are working together to reduce the harmful health effects that can be caused by hot weather. High temperatures and high humidity can be very dangerous for vulnerable individuals, such as young children, the elderly, those with pre-existing illnesses and those who are socially isolated.

In apartment buildings with no air conditioning or poorly-working air conditioning, units can get much hotter than outside, particularly those facing full sun on the south and west sides of the building.

As an owner or operator of a building, you can play an important part in protecting the health of tenants, particularly those who are vulnerable, by adopting a "Hot Weather Protection Plan" for your building. Your plan should include steps that:

- **Help tenants keep their units as cool as possible:**  
Our "Beat the Heat" factsheet and "Protect Your Health from Heat" postcard are available for download or you can direct residents to our website [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health)
- **Make sure your building systems are working properly**  
Ventilation and air conditioning systems should be inspected and maintained regularly to ensure efficient and effective operation
- **Take action when Toronto Public Health declares a Heat Warning:**
  - You can download the list of "Air conditioned Public Places" and post it in elevators and/or common areas so tenants are aware of where they can go for relief from the heat
  - Provide an air-conditioned common room or lobby, or a shaded space outdoors, and encourage residents to visit for relief from the heat
  - Check in on vulnerable tenants, especially seniors living alone, to make sure they are drinking plenty of fluids and keeping cool

During an Extended Heat Warning, public health inspectors may also visit to see if a Hot Weather Protection Plan has been put in place.

If you would like to receive notification of Heat Warnings or Extended Heat Warnings by fax or email, please provide your contact information to Rajesh Benny, Toronto Public Health, at 416-338-1583 or [rbenny@toronto.ca](mailto:rbenny@toronto.ca). TPH will not release the information you provide to others nor use the information for other purposes.

Your support for this work is greatly appreciated and could help save lives. More information is available on our website and you can contact us at 416-338-7600 if you need further details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McKeown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dr. David McKeown  
Medical Officer of Health