

Cold Weather Alert

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NHS (Ref: MO43)

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Forecast Issued on Thursday, 11 December 2014 at 08:01

Cold Weather Alert

Level 2 - Alert and Readiness

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/cold-weather-alert/#?tab=coldWeatherAlert>

There is an 80% probability of severe cold weather, icy conditions and some snow between 0000 on Friday and 0600 on Sunday in parts of England. This weather could increase the health risks to vulnerable patients and disrupt the delivery of services.

Please refer to the national Cold Weather Plan and your Trust's emergency plan for appropriate preventive action.

An update will be issued when the alert level changes in any region. Alerts are issued once a day by 0900 if required and are not subject to amendment in between standard issue times. Note that the details of the forecast weather are valid at the time of issue but may change over the period that an alert remains in force. These details will not be updated here unless the alert level also changes, the latest forecast details can be obtained at the following link:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=map>

Regional Risk Assessments for occurrence of Cold Weather conditions between 0000 Local Time on Friday and 0600 Local Time on Sunday.

The areas that are likely to be affected are:

Region	Risk	Comments
North East England	80 %	The mean temperature is expected to be triggered during the forecast period. There is also a risk of icy conditions and some snow, particularly over hills. A significant wind chill will also exacerbate the cold feel at times.
North West England	60 %	The mean temperature is likely to be triggered during the forecast period. There is also a risk of icy conditions and some snow, particularly over hills. A significant wind chill will also exacerbate the cold feel at times.
Yorkshire and the Humber	60 %	The mean temperature is likely to be triggered during the forecast period. There is also a risk of icy conditions and some snow, particularly over hills. A significant wind chill will also exacerbate the cold feel at times.
West Midlands	30 %	The alert thresholds are not forecast to be triggered for the region.
East Midlands	40 %	The alert thresholds are not forecast to be triggered for the region.
East of England	30 %	The alert thresholds are not forecast to be triggered for the region.
Southeast England	10 %	The alert thresholds are not forecast to be triggered for the region.

London	10 %	The alert thresholds are not forecast to be triggered for the region.
Southwest England	10 %	The alert thresholds are not forecast to be triggered for the region.

General Comments:- The recent cold and unsettled weather is expected to continue through to the coming weekend. A band of rain, and hill snow in the north, is expected during Thursday night. There is also a risk of some snow down to lower levels at times in eastern and northeastern parts. Rain and snow will clear early on Friday leaving bright but cold conditions. Brisk winds will exacerbate the cold feel at times. A few wintry showers will follow but any snow accumulations will be mainly restricted to hills. A widespread frost is expected on Friday night. Saturday will see another bright day and despite lighter winds it will still feel cold, especially in the north where a few further wintry showers can also be expected. Another frost is expected on Saturday night before milder conditions along with wind and rain spread in from the west on Sunday.

For updated seasonal flu and syndromic surveillance bulletins from Public Health England, please follow the links below:

PHE Weekly National Influenza Report-

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/EpidemiologicalData/03influsweeklyreportpdfonly/>

PHE Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Bulletins -

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/RealtimeSyndromicSurveillance/>

The PHE Cold Weather Plan can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.gov.uk/phe>

To aid local planning, listed below are the Local resilience Forum (LRFs) matched against their regions.

NHS Region	NSWW Region	Local Resilience Forum
North	North East England	Durham and Darlington Northumbria Cleveland
	Yorkshire and the Humber	Humber North Yorkshire West Yorkshire South Yorkshire
	North West England	Cheshire Cumbria Greater Manchester Lancashire Merseyside
Midlands	West Midlands	Staffordshire Warwickshire West Mercia West Midlands
	East Midlands	Derbyshire Leicestershire Lincolnshire Northamptonshire Nottinghamshire
	East of England	Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Essex Hertfordshire Norfolk Suffolk
South	South East England	Sussex Kent Surrey Thames Valley Hampshire and Isle of Wight
	South West England	Avon & Somerset Devon, Cornwall & Isle of Scilly Dorset Gloucestershire Wiltshire and Swindon
London	London	London