

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 8/12/2021 7:39:00 PM
Subject: [Level 2 heat response media advisory & IB \(August 12, 2021\)](#)

Good evening Mayor and Council,

I am writing to confirm that VCH has issued an Extreme Heat Alert based on the current conditions and forecast for the coming days. Accordingly, the City is activating Level 2 of our Heat response plan.

The City will be issuing a media advisory this evening, inviting media to a technical briefing tomorrow morning, August 13, at 8:15 AM. The technical briefing will recap for media the Level 1 response, and provide information on additional Level 2 measures the City, Park Board and VPL are implementing. Staff from VEMA will lead media through a short deck and then VEMA, Park Board and VPL staff will be available for questions from media in a moderated forum.

The City also will be issuing an information bulletin this evening (attached below) outlining the Level 2 response measures, and recapping Level 1 response. A full social push will accompany this across City channels, and we encourage you to amplify these messages about resources available and staying safe in extreme heat.

Should you wish to listen in on the technical briefing, please email media@vancouver.ca for the WebEx link. Full details are captured in the below media advisory.

Best,
Paul

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City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Media advisory
August 12, 2021

Media invited to briefing on additional heat response measures being activated

Media are invited for a briefing tomorrow morning on the additional cooling measures being put into place by the City of Vancouver with the escalation to a Level 2 heat response.

Staff from the Vancouver Emergency Management Agency (VEMA), Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and Vancouver Public Library will be available for questions following the briefing.

Date: Friday, August 13, 2021

Time: 8:15 AM

RSVP: Video conference. To receive the WebEx link for the briefing, please email:
media@vancouver.ca

Speakers: Kirsten Jasper (VEMA)
Darren Peterson (Park Board Recreation)
Scott Fraser (VPL)

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Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

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**City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Information bulletin
August 12, 2021**

Overnight cooling centre activated in extreme heat warning

City initiates Level 2 of heat response plan

In response to the extreme heat alert issued this evening by Vancouver Coastal Health [\[link to VCH EHA info bulletin\]](#), the City of Vancouver will activate an overnight cooling centre running from 10 PM until 6 AM at Gathering Place, 609 Helmcken Street.

Patrons seeking overnight cooling can sign up for a mat on arrival, from 10 PM onward. Space will be available for working, reading or sleeping. Staff at the overnight cooling centre will accommodate pets that are on leash and demonstrate good behaviour. Owners should come prepared with waste bags and water bowls.

Where to keep cool in Vancouver

Residents can find [cooling centre locations and hours on the City's website](#). Starting on Friday, designated cooling centres will extend hours as follows as part of Level 2 heat response:

- VPB Community Centres: 9 AM to 10 PM
- Central Library branch: 9 AM to 10 PM
- Carnegie Community Centre, Evelyne Saller Centre and Gathering Place: open until 11 PM

These extended hours and overnight cooling centres are in addition to all Level 1 heat response measures already in place.

Residents who are out and about can hydrate at over 200 water fountains across Vancouver, or cool down using temporary misting stations, spray parks, wading parks and swimming pools.

The City will also activate a heavy mister as part of its Level 2 response. The heavy mister is located at Abbott and Hastings Street and will run 11 AM to 8 PM starting Friday, August 13, a **list of misters can be located on the City's website**.

During the heat warning, staff at the following cooling centres will do their best to accommodate

pets that are on leash and demonstrate good behaviour. Owners should come prepared with waste bags and water bowls:

- Britannia Community Centre
- Hillcrest Centre
- Kerrisdale Community Centre
- Killarney Community Centre
- Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre
- Mount Pleasant Community Centre
- Ray-Cam Community Centre
- Roundhouse Community Centre
- West End Community Centre

Pets can be also brought to an off-leash park with water access:

- Sunset Beach Park
- Hadden Park
- Spanish Banks Beach Park
- John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park
- New Brighton Park

Find [maps and more information on the City's website](#).

Activated during Level 1 response and continuing during Level 2

The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are also implementing other actions that are part of the City's Level 1 heat response plan. These include:

- Monitoring outdoor spaces for people suffering from heat-related illness
- Implementing a hot weather support plan for tenants in the City's non-market housing (including wellness checks, providing bottled water and fans)
- Providing heat safety information to community partners and SROs, requesting additional checks and supports for one another
- Provision of bottled water to a number of sites for public distribution where there is greater community need, particularly in the Downtown East Side

The City encourages people to prepare for periods of heat by keeping cool, staying hydrated, and staying informed by checking weather updates and using information on the City website and social media channels to [stay safe in extreme heat](#).

Looking out for people vulnerable to heat

It is also important to look out for and support friends, family and neighbours who may be especially vulnerable:

- Older adults, especially those living alone, and children younger than five years old
- People with pre-existing illnesses or taking certain medications
- People who are isolated or experiencing homelessness
- Outdoor workers
- People with addictions who may be more likely to be dehydrated as a side effect of substance use

- Anyone who isn't acclimatized to our weather
- Anyone left in a hot environment like a closed car, or in direct sun

Learn what to do if you or someone else have [symptoms of heat-related illness](#), and when to seek medical care.

The City continues to work closely with Environment Canada and Vancouver Coastal Health to monitor forecasts, understand increased risks to health, and determine how best to support residents with services.

See more ways to stay safe in the heat and [get information on heat-related illness](#) from Vancouver Coastal Health.

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Media contact:

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