



Cold-Health Alert summary action card for the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

This is a summary of the suggested actions for each Cold-Health Alert level. Check the [Cold-Health Alert action card for the voluntary and community sector](#) for more detail, including the required actions for winter preparedness, and adapt actions to your service as appropriate.

Summary actions for Yellow Alert

- Confirm that relevant staff are aware of contingency plans, have received the Cold-Health Alert and know how to access relevant guidance and advice
- Use the Cold-Health Alert impact matrix to inform the local risk assessment for, and response to, cold weather
- Activate Community Emergency Plans as required
- Share and emphasise the importance of [Keeping warm and well: staying safe in cold weather](#) messages to clients and staff
- Support the provision of information about health risks from reliable sources – especially to vulnerable groups and underserved populations
- Monitor temperatures in places where people who are at risk spend substantial time. Ensure staff know how to check and record these and to follow internal procedures
- Check that individuals at risk of cold-related illnesses have appropriate support arrangements in place

Summary actions for Amber Alert

- Continue Yellow Alert actions
- Work with providers and other partners to mobilise Community Emergency Plans
- Monitor at-risk individuals during cold-weather episodes, ensuring they have visitor or phone-call arrangements in place
- Ensure staff are undertaking appropriate home checks when visiting clients, for example room temperature, medications and food supplies
- Consider how local VCS organisations can provide resources (for example equipment, facilities and people), insight and advice and help share information

Summary actions for Red Alert

- Continue Amber Alert actions
- Follow all local emergency response plans
- Increase communication of key public health messages, especially to underserved populations and at-risk groups