



Promoting and Protecting the Health of Delaware County

Delaware County Cold Plan 2025 – 2026
Version 4

Purpose: To help protect the health and safety of vulnerable populations in Delaware County by providing a structured response to cold weather events.

Scope: This plan covers Delaware County's response to cold weather events.

Level	Monitoring Period	Threshold
Code Blue	November 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	The forecasted temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

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Section 1: Preparation

1.1 Risk Assessment

Identify Vulnerable Populations:

- Older adults (aged 60 years of age or older), infants and children
- Women who are pregnant, individuals on certain medications and/or those with preexisting health conditions
- People without a reliable source of heating
- Outdoor workers, temporary workers, or those returning to work after a week or more off
- Those without access to adequate shelter, protective clothing, or medical care
- Those not acclimated to the level of cold expected, especially those who are new to the climate
- Those who are more difficult to reach through ordinary communication channels (live alone, unhoused, non-English speaking, illiterate, culturally/socially isolated)

AGENCY:

- Delaware County Health Department (DCHD)
- Homeless Services Coalition, Adult and Family Services (DHS)
- Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)
- Mental Health Partnerships (MHP)

1.2 Infrastructure Review

Assess the condition and readiness of public health facilities, emergency shelters, and critical infrastructure. *[Note: implementation of this item is in the planning stages.]*

AGENCY:

- Department of Emergency Services (DES)

1.3 Training

Staff Training: DCHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Team will coordinate 1 exercise annually with partners to simulate a weather event and individual responses.

AGENCY:

- DCHD

1.4 Communication

Internal Communication: The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will notify county partners via email and through the Everbridge Planning Notifications Group of the anticipated cold weather event.

AGENCY:

- DCHD

Partner Contacts: Key stakeholders will notify DCHD of any staffing changes to the Everbridge Weather Planning Notifications Group.

AGENCY:

- DCHD lead with input from all partner agencies

Emergency Contacts: Maintain an updated list of local emergency contacts, including hospitals, first responders, and utility companies.

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES

Alert Systems: Utilize Everbridge and Delco Alert to disseminate warnings and instructions to the public. Additional resources will be uploaded to the Delaware County website and social media.

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES

1.5 Weather Monitoring

The DES On-call Watch Officer will continue to monitor the weather in Delaware County through the National Weather Service (NWS) website. In the event there is severe weather, DES will continue to send emails and Everbridge messages to partners regarding key messages and maps of the region.

The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will monitor the weather through the NWS website. The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will use the side bar feature to research at least two locations in Delaware County. NWS will provide a detailed forecast, satellite imaging, and hourly weather forecast. Based on the findings, if necessary, DCHD will notify county partners of an anticipated cold weather event and coordinate with partners to activate response efforts.

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES

Section 2: Code Blue

2.1 Threshold

CODE BLUE	
Monitoring Period	November 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026
Threshold	The forecasted temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

2.2 Internal Communication

The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will monitor the weather forecast. Based upon weather findings, the DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will notify county partners of a Code Blue via email and through the Everbridge Planning Notifications Group.

[Note: During the 2025 – 2026 Code Blue weather monitoring period, county partners will primarily use email to communicate weather findings, Code Blue incidents, and information.]

The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will communicate the Code Blue incident and identify the timeline of the event to the following agencies: DES, DHS, MHP Outreach Team, Contracted Shelters, Geographic Information System (GIS), COSA, and Delaware County Libraries.

2.3 County Response

COUNTY PARTNER RESPONSE	
DCHD	Partners from DCHD will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilize email and Everbridge to communicate Code Blue incidents to county partners.• Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification.• Join the Everbridge chat.• Monitor the email chain and Everbridge chat for updates.• The PHEP Weather Observer will continue to monitor the weather.• Communicate the Code Blue incident to municipal leaders via the Everbridge Employee Group and to community members via Delco Alert.• Publish the Code Blue event and information to the Delaware County Health Department social media.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Input new information including resources available for community members and weather updates in the email chain and Everbridge chat.</i> • <i>Monitor WebEOC if an event has been created</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Communicate resource updates and critical information in the email chain and the Everbridge chat.</i>
DES	<p>Partners from DES will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification.</i> • <i>Join the Everbridge chat.</i> • <i>Monitor the email chain and Everbridge chat for updates.</i> • <i>The On-Call Watch Officer will continue to monitor the weather.</i> • <i>Input new information including resources available for community members and weather updates in the email chain and the Everbridge chat.</i> • <i>If conditions warrant a WebEOC event, input resources and critical information in the WebEOC event.</i>
DHS	<p>Partners from DHS will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Utilize the 'Reply All' button to confirm receipt of the Code Blue email and identify action items in response to the incident.</i> • <i>Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification.</i> • <i>Join the Everbridge chat.</i> • <i>Monitor the email chain and Everbridge chat for updates.</i> • <i>Input new information including resources available for community members in the email chain and the Everbridge chat.</i>
MHP Outreach Team	<p>Partners from MHP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Utilize the 'Reply All' button to confirm receipt of the Code Blue email and identify action items in response to the incident.</i> • <i>Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification.</i> • <i>Join the Everbridge chat.</i> • <i>Monitor the email chain and Everbridge chat for updates.</i> • <i>Circulate in areas frequented by unsheltered persons with the goal to bring them to a warm facility.</i> • <i>Communicate new information including resources available for community members in the email chain and the Everbridge chat.</i>

<p>Contracted Shelters (Breaking Bread Community, Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, Salvation Army)</p> <p>Note: Breaking Bread is closed for renovations.</p>	<p>Shelter Partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the 'Reply All' button to confirm receipt of the Code Blue email and identify action items in response to the incident. • Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification. • Join the Everbridge chat. • Monitor the email chain and Everbridge chat for updates. • Activate overflow overnight (8 PM – 7 AM) shelter beds. Input new information including shelter capacity and Code Blue bed usage in the email chain and the Everbridge chat.
<p>Upper Darby: The Watkins Center</p>	<p>The Watkins Center will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the 'Reply All' button to confirm receipt of the Code Blue email and identify action items in response to the incident. • Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification. • Join the Everbridge chat. • Monitor the email chain and Everbridge chat for updates. • Activate overflow overnight (7 PM – 7 AM) shelter beds. • Input new information including shelter capacity and Code Blue bed usage in the email chain and the Everbridge chat.
<p>GIS</p>	<p>GIS Partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification. • Join the Everbridge chat. • Monitor the Everbridge chat for updates specifically anticipated warming center locations. • Input new information including resources available for community members in the chat. • Update warming center resources to the interactive map.
<p>COSA</p>	<p>Partners from COSA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification. • Join the Everbridge chat. • Monitor the Everbridge chat for updates. • Conduct outreach and perform wellness checks on vulnerable residents 60 years of age or older. • Input new information including resources available for community members in the chat.
<p>Delaware County Libraries</p>	<p>Partners from Delaware County Libraries will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the polling options to confirm receipt of the Code Blue notification. • Join the Everbridge chat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Monitor the Everbridge chat for updates.</i>• <i>Input new information including resources available for community members in the chat.</i>
<p><i>*All Code Blue response operations will cease the last day identified in the timeline of the event unless given further instruction by DCHD*</i></p>	

Many of the services described in this section are in place and operational from **November 1 - March 31** regardless of the temperature for vulnerable and unsheltered people in Delaware County. In times of severe winter weather, when possible, overflow shelter beds are made available and expanded street outreach occurs.

Section 3: Shelters and Warming Centers

3.1 Shelters and Overflow Beds

Shelter Services: This plan leverages contracted shelter providers to offer emergency shelter beds to individuals experiencing homelessness.

In the event the Code Blue threshold is met, the DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will use the Everbridge Planning Notifications Group to notify DHS and contracted shelters: Life Center of Eastern Delaware County and Salvation Army. Contracted shelters will operate from 8 PM – 7 AM. The Watkins Center will operate as a shelter from 7 PM – 7 AM.

Note: Breaking Bread Community is closed for renovations.

Sheltering will be available on a first come, first served basis due to limited availability. Residents will need to complete intake forms upon entering the facility.

Overflow Shelter Beds: During periods of severe weather, the County works with shelter providers to activate additional beds to accommodate increased demand.

Shelter Resources			
Shelter Program	Location and Contact Info	Population Served	# of Overflow Beds Available
Breaking Bread Community <i>Closed</i>	107 Long Lane Upper Darby (484) 462-0135 <i>Closed</i>	Single Adults <i>Closed</i>	2 <i>Closed</i>
Life Center of Eastern Delaware County	6310 Market St. Upper Darby (610) 734-5770	Single Adults	5
Salvation Army	151 W. 15 th St. Chester (610) 874-0423	Single Adults	10
The Watkins Center	326 Watkins Ave. Upper Darby, PA 19082 (610) 734-7652	Single Adults	30

3.2 Warming Center Locations

- Identify warming centers and ensure they are accessible to those in need. Alert PECO regarding locations of warming centers as priority locations for service if power outages occur.

AGENCY:

- The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will receive confirmation of warming center locations from external partners through Everbridge.
- DCHD will coordinate information sharing with community members through Delco Alert, the DCHD Wellness Line, county website, and social media accounts.
- The GIS Team will update temporary and permanent warming center locations to the map on the Delaware County website.
- Local municipalities may identify additional centers.
- DES coordination with PECO to prioritize areas with warming centers in the event of a power outage.
- Increased coordination may occur between county partners and municipal leaders to activate additional resources including warming centers based on weather conditions.
- Mental Health Partnerships (MHP)
 - **The MHP Outreach Team can be contacted by calling: (267) 671-4357. This number is available 24/7.**
- Delaware County Libraries
 - Individuals can utilize Delaware County Libraries for access to heat. In the event of a Code Blue, hours of operation will not be extended.

Following the link below will guide you to access all member libraries, and their current hours. Library hours may vary: <https://www.delcolibraries.org/about-us/locations>

Library	Address	City
Helen Kate Furness Free Library	100 North Providence Road	Wallingford
J. Lewis Crozer Library	620 Engle Street	Chester
Lansdowne Public Library	55 South Lansdowne Avenue	Lansdowne
Marple Public Library	2599 Sproul Road	Broomall

Newtown Public Library	201 Bishop Hollow Road	Newtown Square
Rachel Kohl Community Library	687 Smithbridge Road	Glen Mills
Radnor Memorial Library	114 W Wayne Avenue	Wayne
Sharon Hill Public Library	246 Sharon Avenue	Sharon Hill
Tinicum Memorial Public Library	620 Seneca Street	Essington
Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library – Municipal Branch	501 Bywood Avenue	Upper Darby
Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library – Primos Branch	409 Ashland Avenue	Secane
Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library – Sellers Branch	76 South State Road	Upper Darby
Yeadon Public Library	809 Longacre Boulevard	Yeadon

Section 4: Additional Resources

4.1 Services in the County

The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) – Coordinates the Delaware County Cold Plan for residents and works to develop health risk criteria for at risk individuals. DCHD will post Code Blue events to social media. Shelter and warming center information will be uploaded to the county website. Residents can contact the DCHD Wellness Line for resources and guidance in the event of a weather emergency. The Wellness Line can be contacted by calling: (484) 276-2100 or by emailing: DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us. After hour calls will be answered by an answering service.

Department of Human Services (DHS) – Annually updates, produces, and distributes *The Homeless Services Resource Guide* county-wide. The guide provides residents with a list of programs including services available, contact information, and addresses. Residents can use the link below to access the resource guide: www.delcohomelessservices.org/printable-resource-guide

Mental Health Partnerships (MHP) – Conducts outreach and circulates in frequented areas to locate unsheltered persons and bring them to safety in a warm facility. The Outreach Team can be contacted by calling: (267) 671-4357. This number is available 24/7.

The Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) – Maintains an “At Risk” list and performs outreach during weather emergencies. Performs wellness checks on vulnerable seniors and prepares and distributes the pamphlet “Winter Weather Warm Up – Tips to Staying Healthy in the Cold Winter Months.” Residents can contact COSA’s main line by calling (610) 490-1300. An answering service is provided for after hour calls.

Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC) – The CAADC Weatherization Assistance Program provides in-home service to income-eligible households. Services include diagnostic air flow testing, weather stripping and caulking, insulation, and window repair or replacement. Residents can contact CAADC by calling: (610) 874-8451. Residents can contact the CAADC Weatherization office by calling: (610) 521-8770.

FindHelp – Residents can use the online website, FindHelp, to specifically search their zip code to access a list of programs available in that specific area. Resources include food pantry locations, sheltering and housing opportunities, and more. Hovering over the different topics will pull up additional sub-tabs that can provide more detailed options. Residents can use the following link to access the online resource: <https://www.findhelp.org/>.

PA Navigate – Residents can use the online website, PA Navigate, to search for resources within Pennsylvania including food pantry locations, sheltering opportunities, and more. FindHelp created PA Navigate to connect PA residents to services and resources specifically in their community. Residents can use the following link to access the online resource: <https://pa-navigate.org/>

4.2 Preventive Care

- Distribute resources to vulnerable populations.

AGENCY:

- DCHD TestandGo Kiosk- TestandGo kiosks provide free resources to residents including **emergency mylar blankets** that can be used to protect against extreme cold. TestandGo Kiosk locations are listed below:

The Delaware County Wellness Center at Yeadon	125 Chester Avenue, Yeadon PA, 19050
Keystone First Wellness Opportunity Center in Chester	1929 W 9 th Street Chester PA, 19013
Delaware County Government Center in Media	201 W. Front St. Media, PA 19063
Delaware County Community College	901 Media Line Road, Media PA 19063
SEPTA 69 th Street Transportation Terminal	6901 Market Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082

4.3 Health Monitoring

- Set up outreach programs to check on vulnerable individuals and provide guidance on cold-related illness prevention.

AGENCY:

- DCHD guidance on cold-related illness prevention.
- COSA

4.4 Public Messaging

Issue regular updates on proper cold-weather precautions, Code Blue incidents, and dangerously cold conditions. Increased messaging may occur based on weather conditions.

Residents can register for the Delco Alert notification system to receive emergency notification communications regarding weather emergencies by using the online link: <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612334/new> To receive information

regarding Code Blue events, residents are encouraged to add the following to their subscriptions:

- County of Delaware – County Office of Services for the Aging
- County of Delaware – Emergency Preparedness
- County of Delaware – Delaware County Health Department

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES
- COSA

Section 5: Plan Review and Update

5.1 Regular Updates

Annual Review: Review and update the Delaware County Cold Plan annually to incorporate new information and feedback. Identify strengths and areas for improvement. Update the plan based on feedback and new insights.

AGENCY:

- All

Stakeholder Feedback: Engage with community stakeholders and emergency responders to refine the plan.

AGENCY:

- DCHD lead with input from all partner agencies

5.2 Continuous Improvement

Training Exercises: Conduct regular simulation exercises to test and improve response procedures.

AGENCY:

- All

Policy Updates: Stay informed about advancements in emergency management and update policies as needed.

AGENCY:

- All

Section 6: Contacts

County Contact Information			
Delaware County Health Department (DCHD)	484-276-2100	Health Information	https://www.delcopa.gov/health/
Delaware County Emergency Services (DES)	610-565-8700	Weather Monitoring	https://www.delcopa.gov/departments/emergencyservices.html
Adult and Family Services	610-713-2365	Housing Resource	https://www.delcohsa.org/
County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)	610-490-1300	Senior Citizen Outreach	https://www.delcosa.org/
Community Action Agency of Delaware Co. (CAADC)	610-874-8451	Human Services Energy Assistance Program	https://caadc.org/
Breaking Bread Community <i>Closed</i>	484-462-0135 <i>Closed</i>	Shelter <i>Closed</i>	http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/
Life Center of Eastern Delaware County	610-734-5770	Shelter	http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/
Salvation Army	610-874-0423	Shelter	http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/
The Watkins Center	(610) 734-7652	Sheltering Resource	https://www.upperdarby.org/seniors
Mental Health Partnerships	267-671-4357	Outreach Team	https://www.mentalhealthpartnerships.org/

