

Cold Weather Alert

Tel: 0370 900 0100 www.metoffice.gov.uk



NHS (Ref: MO43)

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Forecast Issued on Thursday, 31 January 2019 at 12:23

Cold Weather Alert

Level 3 - Cold Weather Action

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

There is a 90% probability of severe cold weather/icy conditions/snow between 1400 on Thursday 31 Jan and 0900 on Friday 01 Feb 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 1400 Local Time on Thursday 31 Jan and 0900 Local Time on Friday 01 Feb.

The areas that are likely to be affected are:

| Region | Risk | Comments |
|--------------------------|------|--|
| North East England | 90 % | Cold conditions persisting with wintry showers bringing slight snow accumulations in places and icy stretches possible. |
| North West England | 90 % | Cold conditions persisting with another hard frost expected. Wintry showers should be confined to high ground. |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 90 % | Cold conditions persisting with wintry showers bringing slight snow accumulations in places and icy stretches possible. |
| West Midlands | 80 % | Cold conditions persisting with another hard frost expected. Wintry showers should be confined to high ground. |
| East Midlands | 80 % | Cold conditions persisting with wintry showers bringing slight snow accumulations in places and icy stretches possible. |
| East of England | 70 % | Cold conditions persisting with wintry showers bringing slight snow accumulations in places and icy stretches possible. The south of the region may see some more persistent snow leading to patchy accumulations. |
| Southeast England | 90 % | Southeast England has been upgraded as a whole because parts of Hampshire look to see some significant snowfall, mainly away from the south |

| | | |
|-------------------|------|---|
| | | coast. The highest snowfall accumulations are likely to be in areas above 150 metres or so. The southeast more generally should still see some snow, but amounts will be more of the ilk 1-3cm, with higher ground perhaps more affected, e.g. the North/South Downs. |
| London | 70 % | While London should see another cold night and some snow, this should be of the order of a centimetre or two in places, with the North Downs and Chilterns perhaps seeing a little more. Lesser amounts and lower confidence relative to the 'Southeast' region is the reason for no change in alert level in London. |
| Southwest England | 90 % | A band of rain will arrive from the southwest on Thursday afternoon, quickly turning to snow and becoming heavy at times. 3 to 7 cm is likely to accumulate quickly - within two to three hours - with up to 10 cm in some places. The highest snowfall accumulations are likely to be in areas above 150 metres or so. |

General Comments:- This alert supersedes the alert issued on Monday 28 January and raises the alert level in Southwest and Southeast England to a Level 3. All other regions retain their previously held alert levels.

The upgrade for Southeast and Southwest is in light of the Met Office Amber NSWWS snow warning (for latest on this see link below):

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings#?date=2019-01-31>

There has been an unusually high degree of uncertainty in relation to snowfall locations and amounts associated with a weather system approaching the southern third of the UK today (Thursday 31 January), however confidence has now reached a point to warrant this upgrade in some areas.

This alert retains the same end time and will be revised and reissued by 0900 Friday 01 February for details regarding the first few days of February. Present thinking is that while there are still some cold nights, ice and snowfall possible, there is a trend towards conditions gradually becoming a little less cold.

For winter health surveillance bulletins from Public Health England, please use the following link:
<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/winter-health-watch>

The PHE Cold Weather Plan can be accessed at the following link:
<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cold-weather-plan-for-england>

A range of free resources from the Stay Well This Winter campaign can be downloaded or ordered here <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/34-stay-well-this-winter->

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 |