

## St. Joseph County Department of Health

"To promote health and wellness with compassion and integrity through partnerships, education, protection, and advocacy for all who reside in and visit St. Joseph County"

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 14, 2024

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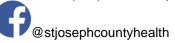
## **Extreme Heat Public Advisory**

Due to high daily temperatures and a heat index potentially reaching over 100 degrees for the next several days, the St. Joseph County Department of Health is issuing a Public Health Advisory. Exposure to extreme heat outdoors, or the inability to cool down, can cause serious, life-threatening health problems.

The St. Joseph County Department of Health wants to remind the public to take the following important precautions to prevent heat-related illness and injuries:

- Wear appropriate clothing- light & breathable.
- Stay in cooler areas such as indoors or shaded areas.
- Apply sunscreen to all exposed areas of skin.
- Do not leave children or pets in cars even if A/C is on
- Avoid hot and heavy meals.
- Drink plenty of water and refrain from drinking sugary or alcoholic drinks.
- Keep your pet hydrated and check asphalt temperatures **before** walking them.
- Check in on those at high risk of suffering from a heat-related illness (e.g., young children, older adults, individuals with chronic conditions, individuals without central air, etc.).
- Know the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.
  - o Skin irritation
  - Muscle pain or spasms
  - o Fatigue/Irritability
  - Extreme thirst
  - Headache
  - o Nausea
  - Confusion
  - Slurred speech
  - Unconsciousness
  - Seizures
- If anyone you know or see is experiencing any symptoms, please call 911 and place them in a cool area to recover.

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The City of South Bend's community centers and local libraries are open as cooling spaces.

- Charles Black Community Center
  - $\circ$  Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m. 9 p.m.
  - o Fri: 9 a.m. − 5 p.m.
  - Closed Sat & Sun
- Howard Park Event Center
  - Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. 8 p.m.
  - Sat: 10 a.m. 9 p.m.
  - o Sun: 12 p.m. − 6 p.m.
- O'Brien Fitness Center
  - $\circ$  Mon-Thur: 5 a.m. -9 p.m.
  - Fri: 5 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
  - Sat: 6 a.m. 3 p.m.
  - $\circ$  Sun: 9 a.m. 2 p.m.
- St. Joe County Public Library
  - o Check with your local library.

For those experiencing homelessness, please refer to the map on page 3 to find the nearest resources available during this extreme heat.

For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at <a href="www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a> and stay up to date with information by following the St. Joseph County Department of Health on social media (Facebook and Twitter).

