



# 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