

## City of Hamilton Extreme Cold Weather Protocol COLD Coalition (December 2022)

Public Health - Health Protection Division assesses weather conditions daily.



COLD Alert is called when temperatures reach: Less than -15° Celsius actual or less than -20° Celsius with wind chill.



When a Cold Alert is determined by Public Health, the MOH/designate will send a Cold Alert notification to the community via fax, email and phone. As well, the City of Hamilton website/social media is updated with the most current Cold Alert response information.

**\* During extended Cold Alerts, PHS will send reminders every three days.**



### Media Contacts:

- Directed to the City of Hamilton's Communications Division [Communications@hamilton.ca](mailto:Communications@hamilton.ca) for city-level response, system-level questions, data, etc.
- Salvation Army acts as contact to speak to agency-level response and actions (Salvation Army Communications Team at [on.communications@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:on.communications@salvationarmy.ca))



### During a Cold Alert, responses include:

#### COMMUNITY WARM PLACES & RESPONSE:

- More information on available resources can be found at [www.hamilton.ca/cold](http://www.hamilton.ca/cold)
- Shelters relax service restrictions, where possible, and activate overflow spaces.
- Some drop-ins and other services have extended hours/services or relax criteria, where possible.
- Specific City of Hamilton Recreation Centres and Hamilton Public Library branches are available as warm places during business hours.
- Neighbours and agencies check in on vulnerable individuals (in housing).

#### OUTREACH TEAMS should:

- Visit their typical places where homeless might be.
- Respond to calls re: new referrals through usual admission process.
- Contact COAST or police if assistance is needed when individuals are refusing to come out of the cold and are not properly equipped for the weather.

#### COAST will:

- Advise Outreach Teams if Police need to be involved because COAST staff are out on calls.