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## DOH-BAY URGES PUBLIC TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS DURING HEAT ADVISORY

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**Bay County, Fla.** - The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) is urging residents to take necessary precautions and follow safety measures during the current heat advisory in Bay and neighboring counties. With temperatures expected to be above 90°F and heat indexes near or above 100°F for the next several days it is important to prioritize the well-being of individuals and communities.

The National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory for Bay County, forecasting high temperatures and humidity that pose health risks. DOH-Bay recognizes the importance of raising awareness and promoting measures to ensure the safety of residents during extreme weather conditions.

“Heat-related illnesses are preventable and can affect anyone subjected to high temperatures for prolonged periods of time,” said Sandon S. Speedling, MHS, CPM, CPH, Administrator and Health Officer, DOH-Bay.

During this heat advisory, DOH-Bay recommends the following safety measures to minimize the risk of heat-related illnesses and emergencies:

**Stay hydrated.** Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they can lead to dehydration.

**Stay cool.** Avoid direct sunlight and long exposure to the sun. Spend time in air-conditioned environments. If you do not have access to air conditioning, consider visiting public buildings or public spaces with shade. Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing to help your body regulate its temperature. Protect your head and face with a wide-brimmed hat and use sunscreen to prevent sunburn. Minimize outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day. If you must be outside, take frequent breaks in shaded areas and avoid strenuous physical exertion.

**Check on vulnerable individuals.** Keep an eye on elderly neighbors, young children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions, as they are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Ensure they have access to a cool environment and sufficient hydration.

**Never leave children, vulnerable individuals, or pets unattended in vehicle.** Temperatures inside a parked car can rise rapidly, even with the windows slightly open, and can be life-threatening.

DOH-Bay urges everyone to remain vigilant and look out for one another during this heat advisory. By following these safety measures, we can collectively reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses and emergencies.

Stay informed about the heat advisory by following the [National Weather Service](#) or your local news.

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