

# PRESS RELEASE



## Extreme Cold Weather Reminder for This Week

**For Immediate Release:**

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**DES MOINES, IOWA – Thursday, January 24, 2019** – The City of Des Moines is currently experiencing bitter cold temperatures that will continue through Saturday, Jan. 26, as well as during the early and middle parts of next week. Residents are reminded to avoid exposure to the extreme cold and to take precautions if they need to be outside. During cold or other extreme weather events, the City of Des Moines activates event-specific plans and coordinates with Polk County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA) and surrounding community partners to efficiently assist citizens. This coordination also includes monitoring local shelter capacities, participating in metro-wide efforts, and sharing web-based information/education resources. The following information can assist you to be prepared for the cold.

### Getting Warm

During extreme cold weather events, the following sheltering strategy should be used when persons cannot escape the cold. 1. Hotel/motel; 2. Warming centers, as needed; 3. Use of existing local shelters, as needed; 4. Activation of a county-wide shelter during the most extreme events.

To find temporary relief from the cold, residents are encouraged to utilize warming centers, businesses and facilities that are normally open to the public during their regular business hours, such as shopping malls, that have public restroom facilities. Warming centers are not staffed to provide services, but they are safe places to get warm. The City has identified the following warming centers as possible options:

|  | Sunday              | Monday           | Tuesday          | Wednesday        | Thursday         | Friday           | Saturday         |
|--|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Southridge Mall</b><br>1111 E. Army Post Rd.    | 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.    | 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Merle Hay Mall</b><br>3800 Merle Hay Rd.        | 12 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Central Library</b><br>1000 Grand Ave.          | 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.     | 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.  |                  |                  | 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.  |                  | Closed           |
| <b>East Side Library</b><br>2559 Hubbell Ave.      | Closed              | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. |                  | Closed           | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. |                  | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| <b>Forest Ave. Library</b><br>1326 Forest Ave.     | Closed              | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. |                  | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. | Closed           | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| <b>Franklin Ave. Library</b><br>5000 Franklin Ave. | Closed              | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. |                  | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Closed           | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| <b>North Side Library</b><br>3516 Fifth Ave.       | Closed              | Closed           | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. |                  | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. |                  | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| <b>South Side Library</b><br>1111 Porter Ave.      | Closed              | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. | Closed           | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. |                  | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |

### Local Shelters

- **Central Iowa Shelter and Services (CISS), 1420 Mulberry, Des Moines**  
Currently operating in its weather amnesty status and has surge capacity available. During the weather amnesty status, at 10 degrees, individuals who may not normally be able to seek services can come in. They may do so 48 hours before and after projected cold temperatures.
- **Bethel Mission, 1310 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Des Moines**  
Currently operating in its weather amnesty status, reached when temperatures reach 32 degrees, and has surge capacity available. Polk County Health Services is assisting with mental health evaluations at CISS and Bethel Mission.

### Partnering Agencies Efforts

- **JOPPA and Primary Health Care (PHC)** are performing outreach to ensure individuals are aware that warming and other services are available now.
- **DART** is assisting by providing free transport for individuals needing to get to CISS, Bethel Mission, or identified or routinely open warming centers.

### Extreme Weather Resources and Information

Learn how to make an emergency kit, make an emergency plan, be informed about extreme weather hazards, and sign up for the CodeRED automated notification system on Polk County's website:

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness/>

### About the City of Des Moines

The City of Des Moines: Iowa's capital city and local government servicing more than 217,000 residents, 51+ neighborhoods, over 4000 acres of parkland and 81 miles of trails. The City of Des Moines stands to be a financially strong city with exceptional city services, fostering an involved community in a customer friendly atmosphere. Visit <http://www.dmgov.org/>, Facebook <http://facebook.com/DesMoinesGov> and Twitter @DesMoinesGov for more information.

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