

Recommendations on Setting up Warming Centers

Kane County Health Department

Public Health Emergency Response

Recommendations and considerations for setting up warming centers:

- Choose a space that is adequately heated and has adequate bathrooms
- Ensure space is publicly accessible with clear signs displaying operating hours
- Plan and provide possible resources
 1. Pre-packaged snacks, availability of warm drinks
 2. Seating, blankets, and accessible space for nursing mothers
 3. Additional staff, as needed, for assistance
 4. Available TV or board games
 5. Safe drinking water (fountain or water bottles)
- Provide for a safe and secure environment
- Availability of electrical outlets
- Establish set of opening standards and what can be supported by the organization
- Provide parking access
- ADA compliant with mobility constraint considerations
- Available to all individuals
- Opening facilities in areas with defined need
- Convenient hours of operation

Types of facilities frequently used for warming centers:

- Libraries
- Recreational or community centers
- City hall / courthouse
- Places of worship
- Senior centers
- Shopping malls
- Police departments
- Fire departments

When should we open our warming centers?

An important component to the success of these centers is communication. The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) will issue communication through social media and other partners (Kane County EM Coordinators, Emergency Response Master Contacts, Kane County PIO) and include the standard list of warming and cooling center availability during hazardous weather conditions. But, the availability of each facility and how many citizens they are able to accommodate and when they are open to the public is strictly the decision of the organization. Many temporary emergency shelters have temperature thresholds they consider before opening their facility to those seeking respite and organizations should clearly define those thresholds.

What if we are unable to support the opening of a warming center?

The health department and the county completely understand the constraints associated with opening and supporting even a temporary warming center. In lieu of offering direct services, we'd ask that you share our social media posts and press releases being issued and look for releases as well from the Kane County Office of Emergency Management.

If there are additional questions or your organization would like guidance on establishing a temporary warming center, please reach out to the health department and our emergency response team:

Thank You,

Kane County Health Department

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