



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARIES OPEN AS COOLING CENTERS

(Olathe, KS –August 1, 2008) The Johnson County Health Department, in cooperation with the Johnson County Library, encourages citizens who need a place to cool down during hot days to visit one of thirteen library branches. All of these facilities will be available during normal business hours.

Libraries offer many services in addition to a cool place to rest and restore. You can read books, magazines and newspapers, or access the Internet. Library hours vary by location. Call (913) 495-2400 to check hours of operation for their nearest library branch, or visit the Library web site at www.jocolibrary.org.

Dr. Leon Vinci, Johnson County Health Department Director, recommends the following tips:

- Drink more fluids (non-alcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Check with your doctor if you have specific restrictions related to fluid intake.
- Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air conditioning, go somewhere cool—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat.
- Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or staying in an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some individuals are at greater risk than others. Be sure to check regularly on:
 - Infants and young children
 - People aged 65 or older
 - People who have a mental illness
 - Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure
- If you must be out in the heat, limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.
- Exercise in an air-conditioned environment and drink two to four glasses of cool, non-alcoholic fluids each hour. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Try to rest often in shady areas.
- Protect yourself from the sun by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher and wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

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