



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Montco Issues “Code Blue” Cold Weather Declaration for February 20 through February 22

Norristown, PA (February 20, 2020) – The Montgomery County Commissioners, on the advice of the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, have declared a “Code Blue” Cold Weather Emergency for Montgomery County based on a review of forecasts from the National Weather Service.

The “Code Blue” Declaration has been issued for Montgomery County for the period beginning Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 9 p.m. and ending on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at 9 a.m. During this time, either the temperature or the wind chill is expected to be below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

A “Code Blue” Cold Weather Declaration is made in Montgomery County when winter conditions pose a threat of serious harm or death to individuals without shelter. A “Code Blue” is called when the combination of air temperature and the wind chill is anticipated to be 20°F or less.

Residents of Montgomery County who need emergency shelter during a “Code Blue” can call the Your Way Home Call Center at 2-1-1 or text their zip code to 898-211.

WHAT TO DO IN "CODE BLUE" CONDITIONS

- Check on elderly friends and neighbors frequently to ensure that their homes are adequately heated.
- If you see someone in need of immediate emergency assistance, call or text 9-1-1.
- If you or someone you know needs help with temporary shelter from the cold weather or a longer-term housing issue, call Your Way Home at 2-1-1 or text 898-211.

PERSONAL TIPS

- Make sure your car is winterized with antifreeze, a full tank of gas, properly inflated tires, and is stocked with an emergency kit.
- Check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Wear appropriate clothing and avoid prolonged exposure when going outdoors in winter weather.
- Limit pets' time outdoors during extreme temperatures.
- Report power outages directly to your utility company; DO NOT call 9-1-1.

For general cold weather information, please visit www.montcopa.org/codeblue.