



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building

55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Memorandum

From: Nancy Grimm, RN, Esq.
Director, Office of Health Care Quality

To: Long Term Care Providers, Hospitals and Assisted Living Facilities

Date: June 29, 2012

Re: Reporting of Environmental Issues related to Extreme Weather Events

With the extreme heat that the State of Maryland is expecting over the next week and likely throughout the summer, cooling resource usage, such as air conditioning, will increase. As a result, facilities may experience a loss of power related to the overuse of these resources. It is expected that all providers have emergency plans to accommodate these disruptions in power.

These plans must include immediate notification to the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) of any heat related situations that may be occurring within your nursing homes, hospitals or assisted living facilities. Types of issues could include, but are not limited to, the failure of cooling systems, power outages, water outages or other conditions, such as extreme heat, that could impact the health, safety, and/or well being of your residents or the operation of your facility. Should you experience a problem during business hours, you may call 410-402-8015. The number to call after normal business hours is 211 or 311, depending on your jurisdiction.

Failure to notify OHCQ promptly may result in sanctions and disciplinary action from the Department.

Cc: Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Patrick Dooley
Frances Phillips