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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charitable Organizations Open as Cooling Centers During Heat Wave July 20, 2022

Southwest Missouri is experiencing a heat wave. Temperatures are expected to exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 days in a row. “This can be particularly dangerous for children, older adults, and people with chronic conditions,” says Kathryn Metzger, Program Manager for the Taney County Health Department. “Many of the homes in our community have old air conditioning units. These can break down during extreme heat waves, and people inside may suffer from heat-related illness.”

Several charitable organizations in Taney County have offered to become cooling centers for the length of the heat wave. This list of organizations is available on the Taney County Health Department website and social media pages. It is being updated regularly as organizations offer their services.

There are three ways that individuals can help during the heat.

- Check on your neighbors. Make sure they are wearing cool clothing, have air conditioning or fans turned on, have their house at a safe temperature, and are drinking plenty of fluids.
- Invite your friends and neighbors without air conditioning over so they can stay cool.
- Reach out to your church and faith-based organizations to identify ways to support a cooling center via volunteerism.

In the meantime, TCHD would like to ask community organizations and partners to help in getting the word out about the cooling centers currently available and ideas for others who may be interested in serving in that capacity. The asks are:

- Share the most recent list of cooling centers with your network through social media or any other way you connect. This is especially important over the next 7 days.
- Please let us add your organization to our list if you are willing to open your doors and share your air conditioner with the public. Please contact community outreach at 417-334-4544 ext 594 for help getting started.
- Please consider reaching out to your clients and congregations to make sure they have a safe place during the day and to share where they can go to get cool.

The next several days are going to be dangerous for the most vulnerable populations in our community and we just ask that you take care of yourself and each other.

For more information contact the Taney County Health Department at 417-334-4544, visit our website at www.taneycohealth.org, or like our FaceBook, Instagram and Pinterest pages.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.