ADAPTATION OF THE FRENCH HEAT HEALTH WATCH WARNING SYSTEM TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC

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• National Heat Wave Prevention plan since 2004

• Equilibrium btw short-term response / long-term adaption

• Short-term response based on 4 axes

Protection of vulnerable people in nursing homes

Identification of vulnerable people at home

Warning Meteo and health

Communication
COVID MAIN CONSEQUENCES ON THE HEAT – HEALTH CAUSAL CHAIN

Heat

- COVID influence on heat exposure
  - lockdown, restricted access to cool areas, ventilation, protective gear…

Stress

- COVID influence on individual susceptibility
  - social isolation, exhaustion, synergies between symptoms

Disease

- COVID influence on access to health care
  - social isolation, lockdown, conflicting risks perception, disruption of the health care system

Death
MAIN RECOMMANDATIONS FROM THE HIGH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (HCSP)

• Fear of COVID must not interfere with the handling of a heat wave
• Health professionals must be trained to identify COVID vs heat-related symptoms and to adapt treatments
• Access to natural, green, cool areas, public showers, with relevant physical distancing should be authorized
• Adequate ventilation / air conditioning systems must be used and well-maintained
• At-home visit of the most vulnerable must be maintained, following COVID key preventive behaviors
• The number of protective gears should be increased

https://www.hcsp.fr/Explore.cgi/avisrapportsdomaine?clefr=817
ADAPTATION OF THE HEAT WARNING SYSTEM

- An assessment of the COVID vulnerability of each « county » will be shared with Météo-France daily
- It may lead to rise the warning level from yellow -> orange, or orange -> red
ADAPTATION OF THE HEAT-HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

% of population under each level of warning

New 2020 indicator:

Critical care hospitalization for heat-related causes

Emergency room visits for heat-related causes

GPs emergency consultations for heat-related causes
ADAPTATION OF THE COMMUNICATION PLAN

- Dedicated radio spots to give advices on heat wave and lockdown
- COVID visitors trained to provide heat-related advices
- City halls may be authorized to cross databases to identify vulnerable people
• Météo-France models predict a warm summer

• Close communication between Météo-France, SpFrance and the national and regional health authorities

• Sharing of information / ideas / questions / experiences between countries during and after the summer would be welcome! (a dedicated hub launched by WHO?)
Thank you!