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**Cooling centers available during hot summer months**

Summer is officially here, and Oak Park's public health officials are advising residents to protect themselves and their loved ones from the potentially severe consequences of extreme heat.

"While everyone is susceptible to heat-related illnesses, certain people are at greater risk," said Dr. Mark Loafman, Oak Park Department of Public Health medical consultant. "Older adults, young children and persons with chronic medical conditions are particularly susceptible to these illnesses and are at high risk for heat-related death."

Residents who do not have access to air conditioning are encouraged to take advantage of Oak Park's free cooling centers at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., and West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court.

Relief from the heat also can be found at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St., and Oak Park Township Senior Services, 418 S. Oak Park Ave. Seniors can call the Township at 708.383.8060 for a free ride.

For more information on heat-related issues and cooling centers, contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health at 708.358.5480 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

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