

# ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



**NOVEMBER 2022**

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## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

# STAY HEALTHY AS WINTER APPROACHES



**T**he seasons are changing, and winter weather will soon be here, even if the official first day of winter is not until Dec. 21. You should plan now to stay safe and healthy during cooler temperatures and impending winter weather.

### Keep moving

You do not need to stop exercising outdoors just because temperatures are falling. By changing your routine, you can continue to enjoy the fresh air and scenery of the outdoors while you move. Think about adding the following to your current exercise practice:

- **Warm up** with stretching and light activities before you exercise vigorously.
- **Layer up for warmth.** Wear an inner layer that does not absorb moisture, an insulation layer to retain heat, and an outer layer to protect you from wind, rain, and snow.

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# Install a CO detector in your home to protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning.



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- **Drink plenty of water.** You can get dehydrated in cold weather too!
- **Try activities** like snowshoeing, cross country skiing, or ice skating to add seasonal variety.
- **Watch the weather** to avoid really low temperatures or snowstorms.
- **Let your friends and family know** where you will be before you go out.

## Know the signs of cold-related injury

Frostbite is an injury to your body's tissue caused by freezing. The symptoms of frostbite are loss of feeling and color to the skin. It usually happens on the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can cause permanent physical damage. In extreme cases, it can lead to amputation. People with circulation problems or people who are not dressed properly for cold temperatures are more likely to suffer from frostbite.

When your body is exposed to cold temperatures, it begins to lose heat faster than it can make heat. Exposure to cold for too long can cause abnormally low body temperature called hypothermia. Hypothermia causes the inability to think clearly or move easily. It can lead to serious injury or even death if not remedied. Symptoms

of hypothermia in adults can include shivering, exhaustion and confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, drowsiness, or slurred speech.

## Heat your home safely

Many heaters use a form of gas, which can produce carbon monoxide (CO) if they are not working or venting properly. Carbon monoxide is invisible and odorless. It can cause loss of consciousness or death. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. Install a CO detector in your home to protect yourself from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Also, never use generators, gas or charcoal grills, camp stoves, or similar devices inside your home, basements, garages, or near open windows. The fumes from these devices are also bad for your health.

### REFERENCES:

<https://health.ri.gov/seasonal/winter>

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