

NCDHHS Heat Health Alert System Heat Index Thresholds

- The Heat Health Alert System is a system the NCDHHS Climate and Health team uses to send out heat alerts via email when the forecast is projected to reach unhealthy levels.
- Counties receive heat alerts when the daily maximum heat index is forecasted to meet or exceed the heat index threshold for their region.
- This threshold was established by our partners at the Duke Heat Policy Innovation Hub. They used historical heat index and NCDHHS heat-related illness emergency department data to determine the heat index at which they began to see an increase in heat-related illness for each region.

Current Heat Index Thresholds for the NCDHHS Heat Health Alert System

NC DETECT Region Name	NC DETECT Region Number	Additional counties	Heat index threshold (°F)
Northeastern North Carolina	1		101
Southeastern North Carolina	2		103
Fayetteville Area	3	Montgomery	102
Research Triangle Park Area	4	Randolph, Guilford, Caswell	100
Triad area	5		99
Western North Carolina	6		94
Charlotte Area	7	Davidson, Davie	101

Counties were assigned to NCDETECT Regions as defined here, unless otherwise noted in the "additional counties" column: https://www.ncdetect.com/ncd/images/NC_DETECT_Regions.pdf. Counties listed in the "Additional Counties" column were assigned a different threshold from their original NCDETECT Region.

