

Germany, Austria issue warning to elderly and infirm as heatwave rolls in

July 7 2023



A man rides a bike on a small road on the outskirts of Frankfurt, Germany, as the sun rises on Friday, July 7, 2023. Credit: AP Photo/Michael Probst

The German government on Friday warned the elderly, people with health conditions, pregnant women and parents with young children to seek out cool places amid forecasts for a sharp rise in temperatures over

the weekend.

The country's weather agency, DWD, predicted the mercury could rise to 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) with [high humidity](#) particularly in the west of the country Saturday. The heat will spread eastward by Sunday, reaching highs of 37C (99F), it said.

Germany's Health Ministry urged people to stay indoors, consume enough liquids and avoid strenuous activity, particularly during the day.

Austria, where temperatures are expected to reach 35C on Monday, advertised a free hotline for people to get tips on how to cope with the heat.

The southern state of Carinthia activated a heat protection plan for more than 900 [care homes](#), hospitals and other sites to identify people who might be particularly vulnerable to high temperatures.



Straw bales lie on a harvested field on the outskirts of Frankfurt, Germany, Friday, July 7, 2023. Credit: AP Photo/Michael Probst



Bathers have made themselves comfortable in the beach chairs on the Baltic Sea beach in Warnemuende, Germany, Friday, July 7, 2023. The German government warned Friday the elderly, people with pre-existing health conditions, pregnant women and parents with young children to seek out cool places amid forecasts for a sharp rise in temperatures over the weekend. Credit: Bernd Wuestneck/dpa via AP

Each year, thousands of people across Europe die during heat waves, a problem that experts say will only increase due to climate change.

Across the planet, scientists said this week saw three new unofficial global temperature records.

Carinthia's top health official, Beate Prettnner, said it's not just humans

who need to be protected from the heat.

"Provide your four-legged friends with enough water, make sure they have a place in the shade and don't underestimate the risk of leaving animals in a car," she said. "A few minutes can already have dramatic consequences."

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