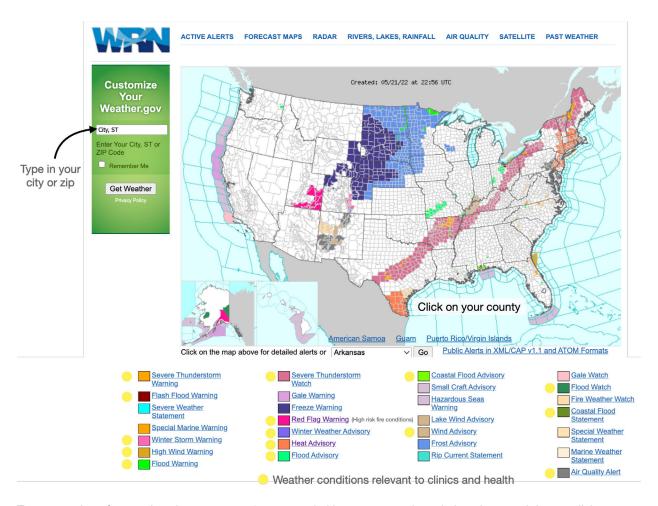
Accessing Weather Alerts from the National Weather Service

Clinic staff can access real-time information for their location via the National Weather Service (NWS). NWS provides a wide range of weather-related health risks including from heat, flooding, poor air quality, tornadoes, and strong winds, among others.



To access alerts for your location, go to <u>weather.gov</u> and either type your zip code into the search box or click on your county.

In the map above, you can see that counties are color-coded by weather event. Some counties may have more than one alert, so you should directly access your county or zip code to see all active alerts.

The National Weather Service typically puts out "watches" to alert people to the possibility of extreme weather and "warnings" when extreme weather is occurring. See below for more information. Specific definitions of the various watches, warnings, and advisories can also be found at weather.gov.

For many weather hazards, the criteria are the same across the nation, but they differ by location for extreme heat and extreme cold. You do not need to know these differences, as the NWS accounts for them when they provide an alert, but knowing the difference between, for example, a heat advisory, excessive heat watch, and excessive heat warning is important.

According to the National Weather Service:

- An excessive heat watch is issued when conditions are favorable for dangerous heat in the next 24 to 72 hours
- An excessive heat warning is issued 12 to 24 hours before the onset of dangerous heat conditions.
- A **heat advisory** is issued within 12 hours of the onset of excessive heat conditions, and typically applies when temperatures will be slightly less than those that would trigger an excessive heat watch or warning.



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