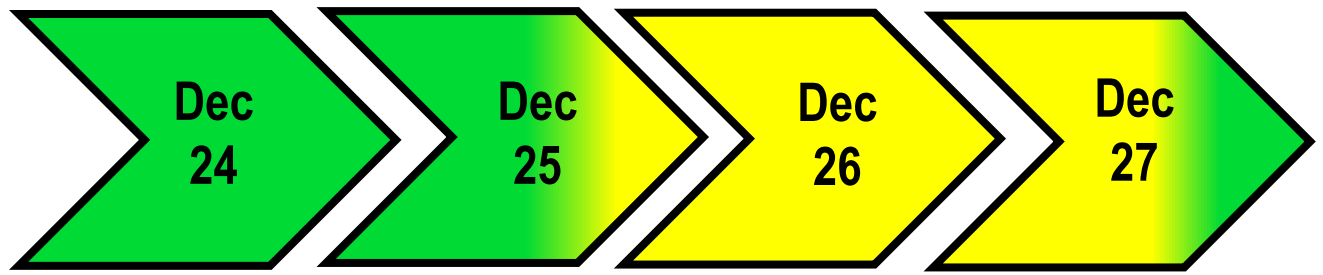




System Arriving After Christmas May Affect Holiday Travel



LEGEND: = Travel not impacted = Travel may be impacted

Weather Message of the Day:



- We are monitoring a large system impacting the Midwest next week with the potential for widespread precipitation.
- This may impact holiday travel after Christmas.
- System arrives in Southwest Kansas around Christmas evening, and departs Southwest Kansas on December 27.
- Precipitation type: Depending on storm track, Southwest Kansas could receive rain, snow and possible ice during rain/snow transitions.
- Considerations: With this system still 5+ days away, significant changes in storm track may still occur.

Important Forecast Changes



First issuance.



System Arriving After Christmas May Affect Holiday Travel

Key Points



Hazards: Large system bringing widespread precipitation. Depending on storm track, Southwest Kansas could receive rain, snow and possible ice during rain/snow transitions.



Areas Impacted: All of Southwest Kansas



Timing & Duration: System arrives in Southwest Kansas around Christmas evening, and departs southwest Kansas on December 27.

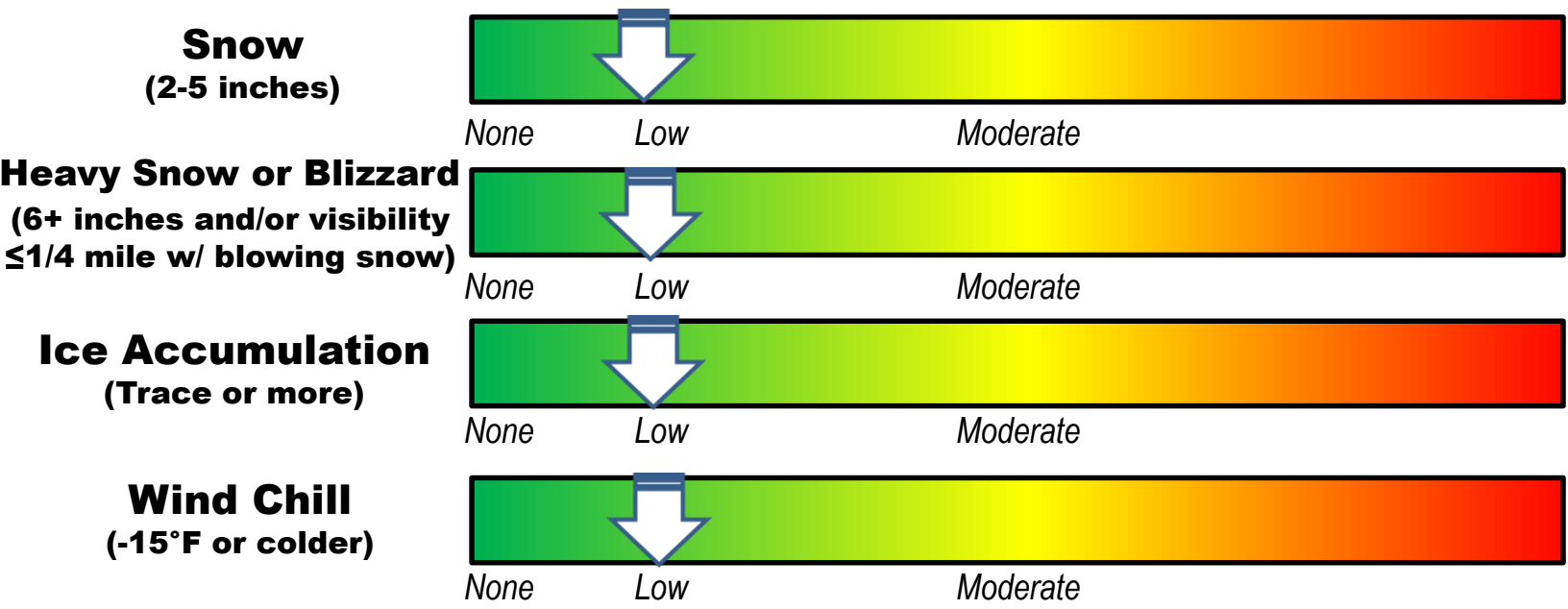


Impacts: This system could make post-holiday travel difficult throughout the Midwest.



Certainty & Considerations: Moderate confidence on widespread precipitation. There is low confidence on storm track this far out from system arrival. Storm track will affect where snow/rain/ice will occur, therefore forecast certainty on hazards will be low at this time.

Forecast Certainty with Winter Weather Hazards





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Winter Weather Quick Facts and Preparedness:



Quick facts you should know about winter weather:

- Snow can occur at temperatures as high as 46 degrees if conditions are right.
- The record for most snowfall in the Lower 48 in a 24 hour period is 75.8" at Silver Lake, Colorado in 1921.
- Blizzard conditions are met when visibility in falling and blowing snow reaches ¼ mile or less and sustained wind speeds of 35 mph or greater occur for 3 hours or more.
- As little as 1/16" of ice can begin to impact roadways and sidewalks.
- As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate. The "wind chill" is a way for meteorologists to communicate what the combination of wind and temperature "feels like" to exposed skin.

Preparedness:

- A **Winter Storm Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for significant winter weather and/or blizzard conditions. *Time to prepare!*
- A **Winter Storm Warning** is issued when a combination of heavy snow, blowing snow, and possibly ice mixed with snow is expected to impact the area. *Time to act!*
- A **Blizzard Warning** is issued when the combination of strong wind, low visibility, and heavy snow will significantly impact daily life.

For more information about this event, please monitor our web page at: <http://www.weather.gov/ddc/>



Building a Weather-Ready Nation