

School Air Quality Activity Recommendations

PROTECT STUDENT HEALTH DURING POOR AIR QUALITY

Air quality is an important consideration for schools in terms of student activities. Local air districts are available to assist schools with understanding local air quality concerns and actions they can take to protect student health. To find out more, contact your local air district. Visit this page to learn which District serves your area: www.arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php



The following school activity recommendations are based on consultation with health researchers and several important principles drawn from recent studies.
Modify these levels to correspond with the AQI, emissions concentration, or other air district recommended method for your region.

| Activity | Air Quality Level | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | LEVEL 1 | LEVEL 2 | LEVEL 3 | LEVEL 4 | LEVEL 5 <i>School districts may consider school closures based on site-by-site concerns. ***</i> |
| Recess (15min) | No restrictions | Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.* | Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.* | No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors. |
| P.E. (1hr) | No restrictions | Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.* | Exercise indoors or limit vigorous outdoor activities to a maximum of 15 minutes. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.* | No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors. |
| Athletic Practice & Training (2-4hrs) | No restrictions | Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Exercise indoors or reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.* | No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors. |
| Scheduled Sporting Events | No restrictions | Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat.** Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat.** Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.* | Event must be rescheduled or relocated. |

* Sensitive Individuals include all those with asthma or other heart/lung conditions ** California Interscholastic Federation

*** To meet the conditions for approval of a waiver due to emergency conditions ([Form J-13A](#)) from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction poor air quality must be shown to be caused by an emergency event such as a wildfire.

