
Purpose/Background

Given that air quality can differ significantly across various communities within Rocky View Schools, School Administrators, along with Grounds/Maintenance staff, will decide whether to postpone or cancel outdoor activities, field trips, events like outdoor sports days, and other tasks. These decisions will be based on the specific local conditions and activities at each site.

Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a web-based, risk management tool which describes a local reading of air quality as it relates to human health. While the index number for a location can rise into the triple digits, anything “7” or over is of primary concern. Air quality advisories and alerts in Rocky View Schools resulting in actions needing to be taken to protect portions of the population have become a fairly common seasonal occurrence.

Procedures

1. AQHI will be regularly monitored via the Alberta website <https://airquality.alberta.ca/map/> (APP also available). Once on the website or APP, the School Administrator will check the AQHI for the station closest to their site or sites where the activities are scheduled.
2. The School Administrator will use the index calculation that is within one hour of the scheduled start time of the activity or event. Note that updates usually occur hourly (at the top of the hour).
3. High air pollution areas should be avoided, and alternative sites for physical/strenuous activities should be considered as a strategy for staying away from air pollution.
4. If air quality changes drastically (wind direction change or sudden smoke event) during an outdoor activity, School Administrator(s)/staff are required to stop all outdoor activities immediately if the AQHI reaches “7” and above.
5. When School Administrator(s) or staff realizes that the AQHI at their site is “7” and above, they should take immediate required action and notify their Area Director.
6. All RVS Staff will use the chart below when making decisions on outdoor activities.

Health Risk / Air Quality Health Index	Direction Provided	Control Measures
Low Risk: 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor activities can continue as planned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
Moderate Risk: 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor activities can continue as planned. Accommodations will be made for individual students and staff members who have respiratory conditions (asthma, COPD, etc.), or experience symptoms such as coughing, and throat irritation. - Outdoor activities may need to be rescheduled if local conditions warrant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal: will provide accommodation for students and/or staff who experience symptoms or have respiratory conditions. - Grounds/Maintenance: will provide accommodation for full-time staff who work outdoors and experience symptoms or have respiratory conditions. Casual or seasonal staff that are experiencing symptoms may be sent home if indoor work is not available. - Head Building Operator: ensure windows are closed.
High Risk: 7-10+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cancellation or rescheduling of outdoor activities, events, tasks or outdoor field trips. - Recess and lunch will be held indoors for students. However, students will be able to leave the school premises at lunch if the school's normal practice allows. - A parent/guardian note is sent home notifying parents that all outdoor activities, events and outdoor field trips have been cancelled or postponed. - May need to cancel or reschedule vigorous indoor activities if indoor conditions warrant. 	<p>Principal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure staff, students and parents/guardians are aware of cancellation/rescheduling of activities. <p>Head Building Operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - submit a service request to inform Operations that the HBO will be modifying the HVAC system air intake. - refer to the school specific Outdoor Air Quality Checklist. <p>Grounds/Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will reschedule or reduce outdoor work for full-time and seasonal employees. Seasonal staff may be sent home if indoor work is not available

Reference:

- Alberta Health Services: About the Air Quality Index (<https://www.alberta.ca/about-the-air-quality-health-index>)
- Government of Canada Air Quality Index (https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/ab_e.html)
- Outdoor Air Quality Checklist (Housed internally on myRVS – address to be provided once live)