

StudentsAir Pollution Episodes and Adverse Air Quality Conditions

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of taking precautions to protect students and employees during adverse air quality conditions and declare air pollution episodes. While air pollution affects everyone negatively to some degree, certain individuals are more susceptible to deleterious health effects. Young children whose respiratory systems are still developing, those who suffer from existing heart or respiratory diseases, and healthy individuals or athletes who exercise vigorously are particularly at risk.

The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD) has adopted rules and regulations which require public notification (including schools) when air pollution concentrations reach levels which could endanger public health. If pollutant concentrations reach established levels, an official determination will be made by the SJVUAPCD to declare an Air Pollution Episode at one of the following stages:

HEALTH ADVISORY EPISODE
STAGE I EPISODE "Alert"
STAGE II EPISODE "Warning"
STAGE III EPISODE "Emergency"

Upon notification that an air pollution episode is declared, District Office staff will immediately notify school site administrators who will be responsible for notifying all students and staff members present. Administrators shall prepare to modify programs and activities if students or employees are required to engage in prolonged strenuous physical activities. In determining whether an activity should be conducted during such an episode, supervising personnel shall consider each proposed activity to determine its potential for increased respiration rates. The intensity and duration (more than one hour) of a proposed activity may be the deciding factor as to whether it shall be retained or excluded from the program that day.

Site administrators shall have the authority to consider additional factors in decisions affecting the exposure of students and employees to adverse air quality conditions including precipitation, smoke, wind, airborne dust, and nearby defoliation or aerial spraying of crops.

When air pollution episodes are declared or when significant environmental conditions exist, individuals with documented heart or respiratory conditions shall be allowed to remain indoors and curtail physical activity.

Adopted: 4/13/94

STUDENTSADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

When adverse environmental conditions such as precipitation, smoke, wind airborne dust, or nearby defoliation/aerial spraying of crops exist at a school or worksite, the site administrator/supervisor shall take appropriate actions to minimize exposure. Individuals who have documented medical conditions which would be aggravated by such conditions should be allowed to remain indoors and/or avoid sustained rigorous activity causing an increased respiratory rate.

The decision to limit outdoor physical activity in such circumstances shall be determined by the on-duty site administrator/supervisor. In some cases, consultation with administrators at nearby schools may be helpful to help ensure consistency. Actions taken pursuant to this policy should be documented and significant events such as the cancellation or rescheduling of major activities should be reported to the District Superintendent.

AIR POLLUTION EPISODES

In the event that an air pollution episode of any magnitude is declared by the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD), the Kern County Superintendent of Schools' Communications Department will notify each School District Superintendent's Office by fax or telephone. Notification of termination of an episode may also be provided by the KCSOS Communications Department.

Upon notification, school district office personnel will telephone each school office and district worksite to notify the site administrator/supervisor.

Staff Responsibility

A. Advanced Planning by Site Staff

1. Develop and maintain a file or database containing the names and locations of susceptible students and employees who have documented cardiac, respiratory, or other medical conditions which may be aggravated.
2. Review with staff plans and procedures to be followed for those at high risk and for all students during the various levels of air pollution episodes.

3. Discuss alternate activities and programs available during an air pollution episode with physical education teachers, coaches and others who direct or supervise strenuous activity programs.
4. Develop a plan to disseminate information to students and employees.

AIR POLLUTION EPISODES

B. Recommended Actions in Declared Air Pollution Episodes

1. Upon notification of a HEALTH ADVISORY EPISODE, the site administrator/supervisor should:
 - a. Notify identified susceptible individuals and instruct them to avoid physical activity during the episode period or stay indoors.
 - b. Advise students and employees not to perform sustained rigorous outdoor exercise for more than one hour in duration. Recesses may be continued but play activity should be monitored. Physical education classes may continue with light activities which do not require physical exertion (eg. shooting baskets versus playing basketball).
 - c. Cancel or reschedule afternoon athletic practices, games or intermural activities if rigorous exercise is involved.
2. Upon notification of a STAGE I EPISODE "ALERT", the site administrator/supervisor should:
 - a. Discontinue sustained rigorous exercise of more than one hour's duration by all students and employees. Physical education classes should consist of light activities only.
 - b. Cancel or reschedule afternoon athletic practices or games if rigorous exercise or activity is involved.
3. Upon notification of a STAGE II EPISODE "WARNING", the site administrator/supervisor should:
 - a. Discontinue all physical activities including recess, physical education classes, and all inside or outdoors sports activities.
4. Upon notification of a STAGE III EPISODE "EMERGENCY", the District Superintendent may close the school as though the day were a major holiday. Other actions may be necessary as determined by the Governor and the Office

of Emergency Services.

C. Special Instructions for Site Administrators and Supervisors

1. Students and employees with special health problems shall follow the precautions recommended by their physicians. In the absence of physician recommendations, outdoor activities should be curtailed in accordance with suggestions listed under each episode level as specified above.
2. Physical education activities should be modified or canceled based on episode levels listed above.
3. Compliance with restrictions of physical activities due to a declared air pollution episode shall be the responsibility of the site administrator and be guided by the recommended actions specified above.
4. Personal judgement should be used and appropriate protective action taken when additional environmental conditions exist at the school or worksite regardless of declared episode status.
5. Site administrators, supervisors, and teachers supervising physical activities may take independent actions to protect the health of students and employees.