



Air Quality Policy 2021-2022

CMP's 2021-22 Poor Air Quality Day Response

For the 2021-22 school year, a significant challenge is posed by responding to poor air quality and COVID-19 simultaneously. Recommended best practices for COVID-19 mitigation is to have students meet outside and/or ensure all classrooms and student spaces are optimized to bring in large amounts of fresh air. This is done by opening doors and windows when possible, as well as configuring HVAC systems to allow large amounts of outside air to enter the building. When we have diminished air quality this can present a health risk for students and staff.

California Montessori Project uses PurpleAir.com to make campus specific decisions.

CMP will use the chart on the next page to guide its actions. CMP will also check AirNow.gov and Purple Air prior to 6am each morning to inform its Air Quality plan to start the day. Significant changes to CMP programming, if necessary, will be communicated to CMP families.

Links for references

- California Department of Education Air Quality Guidance:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ep/documents/airqualityguidance.pdf>
- AQI Basics: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>
- Chart adapted from the [Sonoma County Office of Education Air Quality Guidelines](#)
- Spare the Air Tips for Children:
http://sparetheair.com/assets/Wildfire_Smoke_Flier_Tips_Children_English.pdf

Air Quality Index	Recommended Activities	School Actions
Green AQI: 0-50 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great day to be active outside. 	None
Yellow AQI: 51-100 Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's OK to be outside. • CMP staff will watch for potential student symptoms.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Live AQI (Purple Air), be aware of sensitive students and staff.
Orange AQI: 101-150 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's OK to be active outside for short activities such as recess and PE. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recess (15 min): Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities. ○ PE (1 hour): Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities ○ Athletic Practice (2-4hours): Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. ○ Sporting Events: Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat. • Watch for symptoms and take action as needed* • Students with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Live AQI (Purple Air), be aware of sensitive students and staff. • Inform staff of the restrictions that are in place.
Red AQI: 151-200 Unhealthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any remaining outdoor activities are moved indoors to the greatest extent possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recess (15 min): Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities. ○ PE (1 hour): Exercise indoors or limit vigorous outdoor activities to a maximum of 15 minutes ○ Athletic Practice (2-4hours): Exercise indoors or reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. ○ Sporting Events: Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Live AQI (Purple Air), be aware of sensitive students and staff. • Inform staff of the restrictions that are in place.
Purple AQI: 201+ Very Unhealthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any remaining outdoor activities are moved indoors to the greatest extent possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recess (15 min): No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors. ○ PE (1 hour): No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors. ○ Athletic Practice (2-4hours): No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors. ○ Sporting Events: Event must be rescheduled or relocated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Live AQI (Purple Air), be aware of sensitive students and staff. • Inform staff of the restrictions that are in place.
Deep Purple AQI 301-500 Hazardous	<p>301-350 HAZARDOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All outdoor activities will be moved inside. <p>351-500 HAZARDOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school closure in partnership with authorizing district if AirNow.gov forecast provides sufficient warning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If closure is deemed necessary, communicate any campus closures each morning before 6:00 am

- Smoke can cause coughing, a scratchy throat, headaches and sinus irritation.

Considerations for School Districts from CDE: Before You Make a Decision to Close a School

Outdoor air quality is one factor local educational agencies (LEAs) need to consider when making a school closure decision. LEAs should consider the factors below, in addition to any other relevant local conditions or concerns, when deciding to close school.

Health and Safety:

- **Indoor air quality.** Ventilation and filtration systems at schools may offer a higher level of protection than residential systems.
- **Supervision.** The school environment provides appropriate student supervision by trained and caring adults who can ensure students remain indoors.
- **Student support services.** School may be the primary place where students receive needed health and counseling services.
- **Nutrition services.** Schools serve healthy meals to a significant proportion of students. If school is closed, it is a substantial challenge at best for LEAs to feed students.

Using an Equity Lens:

- Socioeconomically disadvantaged families may not have options for alternate child care.
- Working parents and guardians are disproportionately affected by school closure and could suffer significant professional or economic consequences as a result.
- Students receiving free or reduced-price meals may not have a reliable alternate source of healthy food.
- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may not have access to needed services during school closure.
- Schools provide safe and supportive environments for their students; our most vulnerable students rely on them most.

Instructional Time:

- Instructional time is foundational to students' academic achievement. LEA's should consider adding instructional days or minutes to the school calendar when time is lost due to school closure.
- LEAs that have a foreseeable loss of instructional time due to a history of school closures should consider adding "built-in emergency" days to the annual school calendar.
- Information on requesting credit for lost attendance and instructional time during an emergency is available on the California Department of Education's website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13a.asp>

Guidance for Families When Schools are Closed:

- Stay indoors.
- Keep doors and windows closed.
- Consult a Physician if you have concerns about your child's health.