

Guidelines for Outside Activities in Times of Poor Air Quality

When determining precautions to take during poor air quality conditions Walla Walla Public Schools generally follows guidelines established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Center for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Walla Walla Public Schools administration and staff will confer with <https://enviwa.ecology.wa.gov/home/map> and the Air Quality Index (AQI) to help guide their decision making around outside activities such as recess, physical education, and athletic events/activities. In addition, consultation with the School District Nurse, local health agencies, and other resources may be considered.

Outside Air Quality Index: PM2.5					
Check current and forecast air quality at enviwa.ecology.wa.gov					
	Good (0-50)	Moderate (51-100)	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	Unhealthy (151-200)	Very Unhealthy/ Hazardous (>200)
Recess (15 minutes)	No restrictions.	Allow children with health conditions (see below*) to stay indoors.	Keep children with health conditions indoors. Keep activity levels light for these children unless indoor PM2.5 levels are below 35.5 µg/m ³ (see following page).	Keep all children indoors. Keep activity levels light unless indoor PM2.5 levels are below 35.5 µg/m ³ .	Keep all children indoors. Keep activity levels light unless indoor air is filtered, and indoor PM2.5 levels are below 35.5 µg/m ³ .
P.E. (1 hour)	No restrictions.	Allow children with health conditions to stay indoors and monitor symptoms for those who participate. Increase rest periods for these children as needed.	Keep children with health conditions indoors. Keep activities light for these children unless indoor PM2.5 levels are below 35.5 µg/m ³ . For others, limit to light outdoor activities. Allow any children to stay indoors if they do not want to go	Keep all children indoors. Keep activity levels light unless indoor PM2.5 levels are below 35.5 µg/m ³ .	Keep all children indoors. Keep activity levels light unless indoor air is filtered, and indoor PM2.5 levels are below 35.5 µg/m ³ .
Athletic Events and Practices (Vigorous activity 2-3 hours)	No restrictions.	Allow children with health conditions to opt out and monitor symptoms for those who join. Increase rest periods for these children.	Depending on circumstances and conditions, consider canceling outdoor events and practices or move them to an area with safer air quality, either indoors or to a different location.	Cancel children's outdoor athletic events and practices or move them to an area with safer air quality, either indoors or to a different location. Consider time spent in poor air quality during transit before relocating.	Cancel children's outdoor athletic events and practices or move them to an area with safer air quality, either indoors with filtered air or to a different location. Consider time spent in poor air quality during transit before relocating.

**Health conditions include asthma and other lung disease, respiratory infection, heart disease, and diabetes. See the following page for more details about children's health, improving indoor air quality, and steps to reduce exposure.*

General Procedures:

- (Morning of): The superintendent or his/her designee will announce accommodations or modifications for outdoor/indoor activities for the school day prior to the start of school. This will be announced via email to all staff in addition to other social media communications.
- (Afternoon/Afterschool Activities): By midday, when feasible, the District Athletic and Activities Director or his/her designee will announce accommodations or modifications for all after-school district-directed outdoor activities. Coordination with WIAA, the Mid-Columbia Conference, and other governing activity associations may result in relocated contests, alternative practice areas, and canceling of specific practices and/or events. This will be announced via email to all staff in addition to other social media communications.

General Guidelines:

- When outside air quality conditions reach what is deemed “unhealthy” levels, the district will normally move all outside physical activities indoors.
- When prolonged outside poor air quality conditions are experienced, indoor air quality may also be affected. Supervising adults will initiate appropriate modifications to the activity levels indoors on a site-specific basis due to varying levels of building condition and age of indoor air handling units.