



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 (AQI): PM2.5				
Activity Duration	Good (0-50 AQI)	Moderate (51-100 AQI)	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150 AQI)	Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy, or Hazardous (≥151 AQI)
15 mins to 1 hour (e.g., recess, PE, classes typically held outside)	No restrictions.	Allow children and youth with health conditions to opt out or stay indoors. Limit intensity of activities for these children and youth if needed.	Limit to moderate intensity activities outside. For children and youth with health conditions, further limit intensity or move to an area with safer air quality if needed.	Cancel outdoor activity or move to an area with safer air quality, either indoors with filtered air or to a different location. Limit to light intensity activities indoors if indoor PM2.5 levels are elevated.
1-4 hours (e.g., athletic events and practices)	No restrictions.	Allow children and youth with health conditions to opt out or stay indoors. Limit intensity of activities for these children & youth if needed.	Limit to light intensity activities or to a 1-hour total duration with moderate intensity activities. If intensity level and time cannot be modified, consider canceling outdoor activity or move to an area with safer air quality, either indoors or to a different location. For children & youth with health conditions, further limit time or intensity if needed.	Cancel outdoor activity or move to an area with safer air quality, either indoors with filtered air or to a different location. Limit to light intensity activities indoors if indoor PM2.5 levels are elevated.
> 4 hours (e.g., outdoor school or programming, day camp, overnight camp)	No restrictions.	Move children and youth with health conditions to an area with safer air quality, either indoors or to a different location if needed. Allow children and youth without health conditions to opt out or stay indoors and limit intensity of activities.	Limit to light intensity activities and under 4-hr total duration. If intensity level and time cannot be modified, cancel outdoor activity, or move it to an area with safer air quality, either indoors or to a different location. For children and youth with health conditions, further limit time or intensity if needed.	Cancel outdoor activity or move to an area with safer air quality, either indoors with filtered air or to a different location. Limit to light intensity activities indoors if indoor PM2.5 levels are elevated.

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.