

# WILDFIRES AND AIR QUALITY

*August 25, 2022*

*Karen Relucio, MD  
Public Health Officer  
Deputy Director of HHSA*



**NAPA COUNTY**  
Health & Human  
Services Agency



# AIR QUALITY INDEX

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.



**NAPA COUNTY**  
Health & Human  
Services Agency



# SENSITIVE GROUPS

- Patients more likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure:
  - People with heart or lung diseases
  - People with diabetes
  - Older adults
  - Children



**NAPA COUNTY**  
Health & Human  
Services Agency



The following school activity recommendations are based on consultation with health researchers and several important principles drawn from recent studies.

## Air Quality Level

Activity	Level 1 0-50 Good	Level 2 51-100 Moderate	Level 3 101-150 Unhealthy Sensitive Groups	Level 4 151-200 Unhealthy	Level 5 >201 School districts may consider school closures based on site-by-site concerns.
<b>Recess (15min)</b>	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.*	Exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*	No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.
<b>P.E. (1hr)</b>	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.*	Exercise indoors or limit vigorous outdoor activities to a maximum of 15 minutes Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*	No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.
<b>Athletic Practice &amp; Training (2-4hrs)</b>	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes per hour of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Exercise indoors or reduce vigorous exercise to 30 minutes of practice time with increased rest breaks and substitutions. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*	No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.
<b>Scheduled Sporting Events</b>	No restrictions	Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat.** Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Increase rest breaks and substitutions per CIF guidelines for extreme heat.** Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*	Event must be rescheduled or relocated.

# COVID AND POOR AIR QUALITY

- COVID-19
  - Outside is safer than inside
  - Ventilation with outside air is protective
  - Recirculated air may spread COVID
  - N95 masks are protective
  - MERV 13 air filters are protective
- POOR AIR QUALITY
  - Inside is safer than outside
  - Ventilation with outside air may be hazardous
  - Recirculated air decreases wildfire smoke
  - N95 masks are protective
  - MERV 13 air filters are protective



# AIR QUALITY AND SCHOOL DISMISSAL DECISIONS

- Not solely based on air quality index
- Depends on HVAC system
- Depends on age and design of building structures
- Depends on staffing considerations



**NAPA COUNTY**  
Health & Human  
Services Agency

