




Agenda Date: August 15, 2019  
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## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

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SUBJECT: Update on Public Outreach Activities

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file this update on District outreach activities.

### BACKGROUND:

The District conducts public outreach throughout Santa Barbara County to provide air quality information. This regular agenda item will provide an update on recent outreach efforts by District staff since the previous Board meeting on June 20, 2019.

### DISCUSSION:

The District uses a variety of methods to share information about air quality and District programs. Those methods include the District website, news releases, air quality alerts, social media (Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor), school and civic group presentations, interagency coalitions, events and festivals, media interviews, and phone calls with the public. Efforts are made to provide information in English and Spanish. For this recurring agenda item, outreach activities will be organized into the following categories as needed: Agency Awareness, Community Programs, and Interagency and Regulatory Support Efforts. This update covers outreach efforts from the docket deadline of the June 20 meeting to present.

#### Agency Awareness

- **OurAir.org Website Revamp:** Efforts continue with website design professionals to revamp the District website to improve the navigation, maximize popular webpages for easy access, and refresh the overall look. The website will launch in the coming months.

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- **Media Relations:** The District regularly receives questions from the media regarding specific District programs as well as general air quality topics. During this time period, the District received media coverage on the following issues:
  - District's limited authority regarding odors from growing of cannabis: *Santa Barbara Independent*, *Carpinteria Coastal View News*, *KEYT*, *Noozhawk*
  - Platform Holly Decommissioning: *Santa Barbara Independent*

The District also answered questions during this time regarding the agency's limited authority regarding odors from the growing of cannabis from a freelance writer for *Green Entrepreneur* magazine and from a reporter with the *Los Angeles Times* regarding the marine shipping program; as of the docket deadline, those articles are not yet published.

### **Community Programs**

- **Wildfire Preparedness / Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS):** In response to the utility companies' efforts to reduce the risk of wildfires from electrical lines during high fire-threat times, the District developed materials for residents and businesses regarding the use of emergency backup diesel generators during PSPS events. Diesel exhaust contains toxic air contaminants and has been linked to cancer and other adverse health effects. The District implements the requirements of the state's Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines; a District permit is required for diesel engines 50 brake horsepower (bhp) or greater. For the majority of residential power needs, a generator of that size would not be necessary. The materials also include alternatives to diesel generators and precautions. This guidance has been shared at recent meetings at the County Office of Emergency Management, and the materials are being shared with various County departments, cities, utilities, chambers of commerce, the County Agricultural Advisory Committee, generator vendors and rental companies, and hardware stores, as well as post to the District website and social media accounts.

To increase awareness of how people can better protect themselves from the harmful effects of wildfire smoke, the District is modifying the CAPCOA Air Quality Guidance Template for Schools (Attachment A) — which was shared with schools throughout the county as a resource for use during wildfire smoke events — for a more general audience.

- **2019 Clean Air Grants:** The application period for the 2019 Clean Air Grants opened on August 13. The District has approximately \$2.5 million for projects that replace old diesel-powered equipment with newer, cleaner models. The District will award funds on a first-come, first-served basis, and will prioritize projects operating in a Low-Income Community (as defined by AB 1550) and projects proposing zero-emission technology. The District may also use discretion to distribute funds equitably throughout the county. Staff attended meetings of the County Agricultural Advisory Committee and Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, posted flyers at the Santa Barbara Harbor, ran a recurring ad in the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce e-newsletter, provided training sessions with off-road equipment dealers, emailed approximately 400 recipients, issued a news release, and promoted the program on social media to spread the word.

**Interagency and Regulatory Support Efforts:**

- **Cannabis Permitting Requirements and Nuisance Enforcement:** District staff developed a guidance document outlining the agency's jurisdiction regarding permitting requirements and nuisance enforcement for various types of cannabis operations. This document is available on the District website: [www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/SBCAPCD-Cannabis-Permitting-Requirements.pdf](http://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/SBCAPCD-Cannabis-Permitting-Requirements.pdf). It was also distributed to cannabis operators and consultants as well as planning departments at the County and cities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The costs for the outreach efforts and activities described above are included in the budget approved by your Board. There are no additional fiscal impacts.

**ATTACHMENT:**

- A. CAPCOA Air Quality Guidance Template for Schools

# ATTACHMENT A

## CAPCOA Air Quality Guidance Template for Schools

August 15, 2019

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110

# Air Quality Guidance Template for Schools

## About the Guidelines:

- These guidelines are based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Centers for Disease Control's [Air Quality and Outdoor Activity Guidance for Schools](#) and [Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#). The guidelines are designed to assist in your decision-making process.
- **Modify the template and chart as needed after consultation with your local county office of education, local school districts, local air district, and local public health experts to determine which air quality monitoring methodology, such as Air Quality Index, total emissions concentration, or other air district-recommended method best applies in your school district.**
- **This template and chart are not intended to supersede existing guidelines and policies developed by local authorities, including the school districts or air districts.**
- These guidelines are intended to assist school districts in making decisions when air quality is poor. *School closure and event cancellation is ultimately a school district-by-school district decision based on local conditions.*
- The impact of smoke depends on the sensitivity of the person and the length of exposure, as outlined in the sample chart below. Children with respiratory or heart conditions are vulnerable to poor air quality and may require extra precautions. School districts should advise parents to consult with their family health care provider.

## Using the Guidelines:

- School districts will need to monitor local air quality conditions using air quality tracking tools recommended by their local air district. One example of such a tool is U.S. EPA's air quality index (AQI) available at [AirNow.gov](#). However, because other air quality tracking methodologies may be used in your jurisdiction, it is highly recommended to contact your local air district for advice on the most appropriate tools to use for your region.
- School districts should make decisions about school activities and closures based on air quality measurements and local conditions, such as the availability and quality of school building air filtration and direct observation of onsite indoor/outdoor air quality.
- School districts may wish to consult with their local air district regarding outdoor air and their local public health official regarding indoor air before making a final determination.
- School districts should report any school closures to their County Office of Education for media notification as well as announce closures to families using normal school closure procedures.

# School Air Quality Activity Recommendations

## PROTECT STUDENT HEALTH DURING POOR AIR QUALITY

Air quality is an important consideration for schools in terms of student activities. Local air districts are available to assist schools with understanding local air quality concerns and actions they can take to protect student health. To find out more, contact your local air district. Visit this page to learn which District serves your area: [www.arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php](http://www.arb.ca.gov/app/dislookup/dislookup.php)



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

**Modify these levels to correspond with the AQI, emissions concentration, or other air district recommended method for your region.**

Activity	Air Quality Level				
	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5 <i>School districts may consider school closures based on site-by-site concerns.</i>
<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.

\* Sensitive Individuals include all those with asthma or other heart/lung conditions

\*\* California Interscholastic Federation

## Additional Information & Resources

### About AirNow.gov:

- A network of monitors maintained and operated by trained government agencies.
- It is recommended by many air districts, the California Air Resources Board, and U.S. EPA.
- AirNow monitors form a network to track regional air quality. Pollutants like smoke tend to be well-mixed in the atmosphere and may be adequately represented by these monitors, even if a monitor is not in the same neighborhood as a school.
- Uses highly accurate tools that are regularly monitored for quality control by U.S. EPA. Tools remain accurate at all levels as opposed to personal sensors like Purple Air, which overestimate (especially at AQI of 150 or higher)
- Although AirNow is relied on by many jurisdictions, please consult with your local air district about resources school districts can use that will best represent local air quality.

### About Masks:

- When air is unhealthy, the best option is to reduce physical activity and stay indoors with windows/doors closed. If indoor temperature is high, get to a location with clean filtered air such as a public library, shopping mall or other building with heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system filtration.
- Masks have limitations. Surgical gauze masks provide no protection from smoke. N95 respirator masks are designed for professional use by trained adults and are not intended for children. Therefore, masks are not recommended for children by air quality districts/public health agencies.
- N95 masks require a perfect seal to be effective. If these masks are not fitted correctly, they will provide little if any protection.
- Masks can exacerbate breathing difficulty for sensitive breathers or potentially cause deeper breathing, which draws particulates deeper into the lungs if they are not fitted correctly.
- Masks must be kept clean and replaced frequently to be effective. If a mask is used, please refer to the mask manufacturer's recommendations on cleaning and replacement intervals.

### Recommendations for Ensuring Cleaner Air at School:

- Install and maintain HVAC air conditioning system with medium or high-efficiency filtration. Install high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters if possible. See below for U.S. EPA recommendations for air filtration.  
[https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/smoke\\_fires/indoor-air-filtration-factsheet-508.pdf](https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/smoke_fires/indoor-air-filtration-factsheet-508.pdf)
- Install portable HEPA filters in classrooms where possible.  
Approved filters: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/aircleaners/certified.htm>
- Be sure that portable filters are sized correctly for the room.
- Ensure doors and windows are sealed tightly. Minimize air movement in and out of room.