



AP 1 – 04 Air Quality and School Activities

Related Policies:	Initial Approval:
Related Procedures:	Last Amended:
Exhibits:	Last Reviewed: 2019 November 25

PURPOSE

Poor air quality and air quality advisories from Alberta Health Services have increased in frequency over the past several years. A major reason for air quality advisories has been smoke from wildfires both in Alberta and outside of Alberta. The [Air Quality Health Index \(AQHI\)](#) is used to share the air quality with Albertans in each community. Alberta Health Services recommends reducing the levels of outdoor physical activity to decrease the inhalation of airborne pollutants as individuals may experience temporary irritation of eyes and throat and possibly shortness of breath.

SCOPE

This administrative procedure applies to all school staff.

DEFINITIONS

PROCEDURES

1. Air quality may vary from community to community within Chinook's Edge School Division. Principals will make decision based on local conditions.
2. Principals will make decisions for field trips that involve outdoor activities based on air quality information available for the field trip location.
3. Principals will make decisions related to outside activities including recess, physical education classes and field trips based on the information available from both the [Air Quality Health Index](#) and any air quality advisories issued by Alberta Health Services.
4. Principals will use the **Air Quality Guidelines for Outdoor Activities** in the **REFERENCE AND LINKS** section below to make decisions related to outdoor activities, events and field trips.

REFERENCE AND LINKS

Air Quality Guidelines for Outdoor Activities

Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is defined and measured by Environment Canada. Below are the recommended restrictions for outdoor activities related to air quality:

AQHI		Chinook's Edge School Division Response
1-3	Low health risk	Continue as normal
4-6	Moderate health risk	Consider restricting levels of activities. Reduce the intensity and duration of any strenuous activities. Provide resting periods. Consider indoor recess for

		students with health issues that maybe impacted by air quality. Consider modifying outdoor activities, events or field trips for students with health issues that maybe impacted by air quality.
7-10	High health risk	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Consider indoor recess and lunch supervision for all students. Consider modifying or cancelling outdoor activities, events or field trips.
Above 10	Very high health risk	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Indoor recess and lunch supervision for all students. Cancellation of all outdoor activities, events or field trips.

HISTORY

Reviewed: 2019 June 12

Reviewed: 2019 Nov 25