



# ALCUIN COLLEGE POLICY: AIR QUALITY AND WILDFIRES

(Reviewed August 2024)

To monitor air quality due to wildfire smoke, Alcuin College will be following the BC Air Quality Health Index summary on the Canadian Government Website, [https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial\\_summary/bc\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/bc_e.html). The air quality index and table below will help us to determine the types of activities in which students can participate safely on any particular day.

| Health Risk   | Air Quality Health Index | Health Messages   |   |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|
|               |                          | At Risk Population  | Alcuin College  |
| Low Risk      | 1-3                      | <p><b>Enjoy</b> your usual outdoor activities.</p> <p>All physical activities will continue as normal</p>   | <p><b>Ideal</b> air quality for outdoor activities.</p> <p>All physical activities will continue as normal</p>  |
| Moderate Risk | 4-6                      | <p><b>Consider reducing</b> or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms, which may include cough, scratchy throat, wheeze, nasal and eye irritation, and shortness of breath.</p> <p>Students at risk will be monitored for symptoms. If they are experiencing symptoms, they will take a break or be sent back to school.</p> | <p><b>No need to modify</b> your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing, scratchy throat, wheeze, nasal and eye irritation, and shortness of breath.</p> <p>All physical activities will continue as normal and students will be told to look for symptoms (coughing, throat irritation etc.)</p> <p>Teachers will monitor students for symptoms.</p> |

|                              |                 |  |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| <p><b>High Risk</b></p>      | <p>7-10</p>     | <p><b>Reduce</b> or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should limit physical.</p> <p>Students at risk will be able to take regular recess and lunch.<br/>Low level of physical activity during PHE</p> | <p><b>Consider reducing</b> or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if students experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.</p> <p>Reduced level of physical activity during PHE. Activities may include frisbee, walking, circle games, etc.</p> <p>Recess and Lunch can continue as normal if Health Index is between 7-8. At higher levels, recess will be indoors, and students will have the option to go outside for 15 minutes at lunch.</p> |
| <p><b>Very High Risk</b></p> | <p>Above 10</p> | <p><b>Avoid</b> strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.</p> <p>All students will stay inside, and no strenuous activity will be done that day.</p>                        | <p><b>Reduce</b> or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if students experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.</p> <p>Lunch and Recess will be limited to inside only.</p> <p>PHE will be conducted indoors</p>   |

During high smoke times, Alcuin College will enact the following: keeping windows and doors closed and initiating ceiling fans and air purifiers where appropriate.

#### Fire Hazards

As Alcuin College is in an urbanized area, the risks of wildfires are low. If a fire, of significant size, breaks out near our school we will follow regular fire emergency protocols which require us to evacuate Alcuin College and meet at our secondary or tertiary emergency gathering locations at St Andrew's United Church and Victoria Park West, respectively.