

# SSiS Policy During Times of Haze

Version 24/10/2018

24h-PSI	1h-PM2.5	Air Pollution Level	Health Implications	Measurements	Communication
<100	<150	Good /Moderate	Air quality is considered satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk	Normal activities	None
101-200	151-200	Unhealthy	Sensitive groups may experience health effects, the general public is not likely to be hardly affected	Minimize <b>prolongued and strenuous</b> outdoor activities, e.g. no outings, outdoor sports, swimming, ACSIS games	All parents will be informed about the detailed measures via email, haze policy will be attached
201-300	201-250	Very unhealthy	The entire population is more likely to be affected	<b>No outdoor activities</b> including break time, HEPA filters will be installed on the AC	All parents will be informed about the detailed measures via email, haze policy will be attached
>300	>251	Hazardous	Health alert: Everyone may experience more serious health effects	No outdoor activities*, HEPA filters in action	Email to parents about the detailed measures**

\*If required, the school provides N95 masks to all students and staff members. "HEPA-filters" for the air conditioning systems are stored at school for use in case of emergency.

\*\*The decision about the closure of the school will be based on the Singapore authorities' recommendation (National Environment Agency NEA/Ministry of Health MOH/Ministry of Education MOE).

## NEA 24h PSI-READING: Reference for planning ahead

Scientific studies on the health effects of particulate matter are based on 24-hour exposure and hence the 24-hour PSI forecast has a corresponding health advisory.

## NEA PM2.5-READING: Reference for immediate activities

During the haze season, the main air pollutant is PM2.5. 1-hour PM2.5 concentration readings are a good indicator of the current air quality.

## Policy Background Information

During the period from May to October, winds may bring with them smoke/haze from forest fires in neighbouring countries. The haze and smoke may cause irritation of the eyes, air-ways, nose and throat, and may be particularly problematic for those with chronic conditions such as asthma, sinusitis and allergic skin conditions.

NEA monitors air quality by taking PSI (Pollutant Standards Index, 24h average) and 1h PM2.5 readings. Results are available on [www.haze.gov.sg](http://www.haze.gov.sg). We will always consider the higher-level advisory.

## Health Implications of Haze

The health impact of haze is dependent on one's general health; the severity of the haze and the length and intensity of outdoor activities undertaken during times of haze.

MOH's advice is basis of the SSiS haze policy which will determine how and when activities at school are held during times of haze.