

Air Quality Protocols

GTUSD Air Quality:

Fires leave a path of destruction in communities, and as we have experienced, they are becoming more common in our local communities and in California. They can be miles away, or close to home, and have a significant impact on air quality.

At Gold Trail Union School District, safety and education are our primary concerns. Families depend on us to remain open as long as we are able to continue to serve and protect students. We will remain open following protocols that will protect students; with that said, parents know their children and their tolerance to poor air quality. It is our goal to maintain safety for all groups, including those more sensitive to these conditions.

When the Air Quality index is good to moderate, we will maintain regular school routines, continue outdoor recess, lunch and P.E. Our priority is to maintain safe in-person learning for students. We are working with the community to ensure we are applying the best practices and equipment for both wildfire smoke and COVID. We have provided updated air filtration to our systems, and are currently looking at additional in classroom options. Each school site, although close in proximity, may have a different AQI (Air Quality Index) which we use to determine the above.

Keeping Track of Air Quality

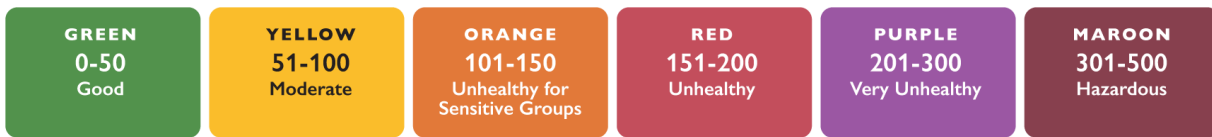
Consistent with county practices we use Purple Air to monitor the current AQI. Each site has a monitor in place. [Real-time air quality map | PurpleAir](#)

[Air Now](#) is another resource that provides additional information throughout the region and state; it is a good site for predicting weekly change. We continue to monitor our air quality and communicate when there are changes.

School Air Quality Activity Recommendations

GTUSD used content from the California Department of Education to inform our decisions for caring for students who have asthma and/or other respiratory health concerns. Below is a summary of how we manage different levels of air quality in our schools when students are on site.

AQI SCALE KEY:



Green (Good)

- Maintain regular school routines.
- Continue outdoor recess, lunch and P.E.

Yellow (Moderate)

- Maintain regular school routines.
- Continue outdoor recess, lunch and P.E.
- Ensure that sensitive individuals are medically managing their condition.*

Orange (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups)

- Provide indoor and outdoor options during lunch (provided there is adequate staffing for both options) and recess, with reminders to reduce physical exertion.
- Sensitive individuals should exercise indoors or avoid vigorous outdoor activities.*

Red (Unhealthy)

- Exercise indoors above 180; or limit vigorous outdoor activities to a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Sensitive individuals should remain indoors.*
- *Consider* whether or not after-school activities scheduled for the outdoors should be canceled or changed.

Purple (Very Unhealthy)

- Health alert: the risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
- No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.
- Due to Covid, for 2021-2022, we will allow students outside to eat, but all activities will remain indoors.

Maroon (Hazardous)

- Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.
- No outdoor activity. All activities should be moved indoors.
- Indoor lunches and recess.
- Due to Covid, for 2021-2022, we will allow students outside to eat, but all activities will remain indoors.

Considerations for School Closures (per CDE)

Outdoor air quality is one factor local educational agencies (LEAs) need to consider when making a school closure decision. LEAs should consider the factors below, in addition to any other relevant local conditions or concerns, when deciding to close school.

Health and Safety:

- Indoor air quality. Ventilation and filtration systems at schools may offer a higher level of protection than residential systems.
- Supervision. The school environment provides appropriate student supervision by trained and caring adults who can ensure students remain indoors.
- Student support services. School may be the primary place where students receive needed health and counseling services.
- Nutrition services. Schools serve healthy meals to a significant proportion of students. If school is closed, it is a substantial challenge at best for LEAs to feed students.

Using an Equity Lens:

- Socioeconomically disadvantaged families may not have options for alternate childcare.
- Working parents and guardians are disproportionately affected by school closure and could suffer significant professional or economic consequences as a result.
- Students receiving free or reduced-price meals may not have a reliable alternate source of healthy food.
- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may not have access to needed services during school closure.
- Schools provide safe and supportive environments for their students; our most vulnerable students rely on them most.

* Sensitive Individuals include all those with asthma or other heart/lung conditions. Please inform your child's teacher and the school office staff of any significant health concerns for your child(ren), especially those who may have respiratory challenges due to allergies, asthma, recent upper respiratory infections, etc., as we will be taking extra care with these students. ***Consult a Physician if you have concerns about your child's health.***

For more information about wildfire smoke: [Wildfire Smoke Guide Publications](#)