

Wuhan Yangtze International School Air Pollution Policy

Effective Date: February 1, 2013

Purpose: WYIS believes it is important to consider the physical health of the students and staff. It is recognized that the rapidly developing city of Wuhan can present man-made and natural factors that reduce the quality of the air and increase the risk for respiratory problems.

Rationale: Scientific evidence suggests that the biggest threat to health comes from particle pollution. Particle pollution, especially fine particles such as those found in smoke, haze or dust, contains microscopic solid or liquid droplets that can imbed deep into the lungs causing serious health problems to the respiratory and circulatory systems. Children and teenagers are more susceptible to complications because their lungs are still developing and the volume of air inhaled per kilogram is greater than that of an adult. WYIS is committed to providing a safe environment for all of our students and staff. As such, we are in the process of developing a concrete policy to balance the health and well-being of our students with their need for physical activity and play time throughout the school day.

The following websites monitor and post hourly updates of the amount of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), and Particulate Matter of 2.5 micrograms (PM_{2.5}): www.cnemc.cn; www.aqicn.info/?city=wuhan. Based on this information, the city is given an index known as the Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI is used to determine how clean or polluted the air is, and the associated health effects. The higher the AQI, the higher the air pollution. The AQI is the standard that will be used by WYIS to determine the quality and the safety of the environment for activities such as PE, recess, sporting events, and field trips.

Policy: The following policy guidelines apply to all grades and subject areas:

1. AQI levels will be monitored by the school each day and on **RED** or **MAROON** days staff will be alerted by email about how to modify any outdoor activity (using the following scale):

GREEN = 0-150 = Daily activities not affected. No action necessary.

YELLOW = 151-200 = Daily activities not affected for majority of students. Activity modifications to decrease severity of activity or decreased time of exposure should occur for students with known respiratory disorders. Observe for symptoms of respiratory difficulty.

RED = 201-299 = Activity modifications to decrease severity of activity or decreased time of exposure should occur for all students. Staff will observe for symptoms of respiratory difficulty in susceptible populations. Activities may be moved indoors or cancelled.

MAROON = 300+ = Outdoor physical activities should be moved indoors whenever possible and/or cancelled. This includes PE, recess, outdoor extra-curricular sporting practices or events, or field trips that would involve physical exertion outdoors.

Jeff Kingma
Head Principal, Wuhan Yangtze International School

This policy cancels and replaces all previously dated procedures.