

AIR QUALITY

It is that time of year again when poor air quality caused by inversions becomes a health concern for many Utahns, especially children and those with chronic conditions. Rowland Hall is aware of these concerns and has been monitoring the daily air quality for many years.

In January 2008, new guidelines from the Utah Departments of Health and Environmental Quality were published and we implemented them immediately. When the air quality number of PM 2.5 is above 90, outdoor activities such as recess will be cancelled or moved indoors.

The new Air Quality guidelines provide an educational opportunity for the Rowland Hall community. Yellow and red color alert days are issued to encourage the public to take precautionary steps to keep pollution down. An example is our **Curb your Carbon** initiative. As air quality particulate numbers change, health advisories are issued. This “real time” data/number is what Rowland Hall monitors. The hourly PM2.5 level is located at www.airquality.utah.gov.

Shirley Stevens RN, our School Nurse, continuously monitors the Particulate Matter (PM2.5) levels. This information will guide our outdoor physical activities.

- When the PM2.5 level falls between 35.5 and 55.4, we will let “sensitive” students stay indoors.
- When the PM2.5 level falls between 55.5 and 90, we will let “sensitive” students and students experiencing respiratory symptoms stay indoors.
- When the PM2.5 level rises above 90, outdoor recess will be cancelled for all children.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the school nurse or principals to communicate their student’s health needs. Parents, with the advice from your health care provider, need to complete a health care plan if your child is part of a “sensitive” group who should have limited outdoor physical activity when the air quality is poor.

We are committed to providing a healthy school for your children. Please contact school if you have any questions.

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