



Health and Safety Policy

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) POLICY & PRACTICE

Updated: February 2018

Approved by SLT:

Whilst air pollution in the Chonburi area of Thailand is not a general problem, as a precaution, Regents International School Pattaya tracks air quality throughout the day by reference to the live Air Quality Index (AQI) feed from the Thai Pollution Control Department station in Thung Sukhla, Sriracha.

What is AQI?

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. Values are divided into ranges and each range is assigned a descriptor and a colour code. AQI runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. An AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to the national air quality standard for the pollutant, which is the level the Thai Government has set to protect public health.

Response to AQI

Our Primary School response to the AQI is slightly more restrictive than that for our Secondary School because medical evidence indicates that very young children are more vulnerable to the effects of particulate pollution than older children and adults.

If the AQI reaches over 200, all Early Years and Primary students will be kept indoors, while the threshold for Secondary students is 250. Thresholds for students with asthma or respiratory problems are 150 for Early Years and Primary students and 200 for Secondary students. It is therefore important that parents inform the classroom teacher or form tutor if their children have respiratory problems.

The below chart helps explain in greater detail how outdoor activities may be modified depending upon the pollution level and the duration and intensity of the activity.

Communications

The daily AQI will be communicated by the Facility Office to staff via email. Heads of School will make the decision whether to restrict outdoor activities and communicate this to staff via email. Any postponements of events will be communicated to parents via email and SMS.

REGENTS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PATTAYA AIR QUALITY INDEX RESPONSE

AIR QUALITY				ACTIVITY TYPES AND RECOMMENDATIONS			
Air Quality Index (AQI)	AQI Scale	Air Quality Level	Description	Break (20 mins)	Lunch (40 mins)	Outdoor Learning, Free Flow Play, PE, CCA (1 hour)	Scheduled Activities (including Sports Days, Outdoor Excursions and Outdoor Community Events)
0 – 50	1	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory. Air pollution poses little or no risk	Normal Activities	Normal Activities	Normal Activities	Normal Activities
51 - 100	2	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable. The general public is not likely to be affected, but people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution may experience respiratory symptoms	Normal Activities	Normal Activities	Normal Activities	Normal Activities
101 -150	3.1	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and people who are sensitive to air pollution may experience health effects and should avoid heavy exertion outdoors. The general public is less likely to be effected, but should limit prolonged outdoor activity	Normal for Primary and Secondary. Early Years students may engage in quiet outdoor activity.	Normal for Primary and Secondary. Early Years students may engage in quiet outdoor activity.	Students should increase rest periods and substitutions to lower breathing rates.	Students should increase rest periods and substitutions to lower breathing rates.
150-200	3.2	Unhealthy		Normal for Primary and Secondary. Early Years students may engage in quiet outdoor activity. Early Years and Primary students with asthma or respiratory problems should stay indoors.	Normal for Primary and Secondary. Early Years students may engage in quiet outdoor activity. Early Years and Primary students with asthma or respiratory problems should stay indoors.	Intensity level and duration of student activities should decrease while rest periods and substitutions should increase to lower breathing rates. Early Years and Primary students with asthma or respiratory problems should stay indoors.	Consider rescheduling or relocating event indoors
201-250	4.1	Very Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children may experience serious health effects and should avoid outdoor activities. The general public may begin to experience health effects and should avoid heavy exertion outdoors	EY and Primary activities restricted to indoors. Secondary students without respiratory problems may engage in quiet outdoor activity. Students and adults with respiratory problems should stay indoors.	EY and Primary activities restricted to indoors. Secondary students without respiratory problems may engage in quiet outdoor activity. Students and adults with respiratory problems should stay indoors.	EY and Primary activities restricted to indoors. Secondary students without respiratory problems should restrict outdoor activities (not to exceed one hour) and avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Students and adults with respiratory problems should stay indoors.	Reschedule or relocate event indoors.
251-300	4.2			EP, Primary and Secondary activities restricted to indoors	EP, Primary and Secondary activities restricted to indoors	EP, Primary and Secondary activities restricted to indoors	
> 300	5	Dangerous	Everyone may begin to experience adverse health effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children should remain indoors. The general public should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors, keep informed of emergency warnings and follow health & safety advice	EP, Primary and Secondary activities restricted to indoors. Students and adults with asthma and respiratory problems should not undertake any indoor activity.	EP, Primary and Secondary activities restricted to indoors. Students and adults with asthma and respiratory problems should not undertake any indoor activity.	EP, Primary and Secondary activities restricted to indoors. Students and adults with asthma and respiratory problems should not undertake any indoor activity.	Reschedule events.