

Air Quality Response	
Policy Owner: Director of Facilities and Risk Management Policy Originated by: COO	Date Written: 5/14/25 Date Reviewed / Revised:
Applicable Programs: All	Date Reviewed and Approved by COO: 6/3/25
Statutory or Regulatory Citation: N/A	Signature if needed:

Policy

St. David’s will follow Minnesota Outdoor Air Quality Guidance for Schools and Child Care from the Minnesota Department of Health in making determinations of when and how to adjust outdoor activities when air quality levels start to reach unhealthy levels.

Procedure

I. Communication when the air quality is unhealthy

- A. The Director of Facilities & Risk Management (DFRM) will monitor alerts and refer to the Outdoor Activity Duration Chart for details; if Program Leaders have not heard from DFRM and feel the air quality index indicates an adjustment to activities they can follow this policy independently
- B. Recommendations for limitations and modifications will be sent via email

II. Determining how long program participants can be outside when the air quality is unhealthy

- A. There is no exact amount of time that is safe or unsafe
- B. “Sensitivity” is not specifically defined by MDH but can include individuals with asthma or other respiratory complications; individuals with sensitivity should:
 - i. Take breaks
 - ii. Lower the intensity of activities
 - iii. Watch for symptoms: coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness

- a. When symptoms are observed: take a break inside or consider stopping all outdoor activities

C. Children with asthma should follow written action plans

D. Air Quality Index

Moderate (50-100)

No limitations for most participants if outside for 15-60 minutes
Participants with health conditions consider modified participation

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)

Limit outdoor activities to light intensity for sensitive participants
Take breaks every 20 minutes for sensitive participants
Make indoor space and activities available for sensitive participants

Unhealthy (151-200 or above)

Cancel or reschedule all outdoor activities
Keep all participants indoors and activity levels light

Violation of this Policy or Procedure:

No or only partial adherence to this policy or procedure may result in noncompliance with current regulatory requirements and subsequent penalties to St. David's Center. Remediation for violators will include, but not be limited to, disciplinary action up to and including termination depending on the circumstances of the situation at the time.

Reference or Attachment:

Minnesota Outdoor Air Quality Guidance for Schools and Child Care - Minnesota Department of Health