



Holland  
International  
School

Haze Policy





## Introduction

Singapore experiences smoke haze from time to time. The haze is caused by regional forest fires which arise when open burning is carried out to clear land for agricultural uses. Haze is often worse in dry periods, when the wind changes direction, and when precipitation is low. Prevailing winds sometimes carry smoke haze produced by the forest fires over Singapore's skies, particularly during the Southwest monsoon season.

Adverse health effects of haze vary and are dependent on an individual's sensitivity, severity, and length of exposure to it. Eye/ nose/ throat irritation, headache, dizziness, fatigue, decreased lung function, chest pain, lung inflammation/ bronchitis and anxiety are several short-term adverse effects that may be experienced. These symptoms are usually mild and will subside by staying indoors and when exposure to haze is shortened.

However, in susceptible individuals and those suffering from chronic disease, especially respiratory and heart disease (e.g. coronary artery disease, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), their condition may be worsened by haze. They are more likely to experience more severe haze-related effects than healthy people.

### 1. Scope / applicability

This policy applies to the whole school.

### 2. Roles and responsibilities

#### 2.1. Responsibilities of the school

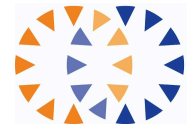
The school ensures Parents are informed about daily routines and activities that are held during a Haze periode. See below 'action by school'.

#### 2.2. Responsibilities of the Health Department

- Monitor haze conditions.
- Update school management and CCA coordinator on the haze conditions.
- Distribute N95 face masks for staff and all students with chronic lung conditions and/or conditions that are affected by haze.
- 24-hr PSI level and 1-hr PM2.5 will be displayed on the monitors in the staff rooms

#### 2.3. Responsibilities of the HIS staff

Teaching staff will ensure that only approved activities are held during a haze Period and will wear a N95 masks when recommended.



## 2.4. Responsibilities of the parents

Parents have to provide N95 masks to their children when recommended or their health situation requires.

HIS recommends that families keep a stock of N95 masks at home to meet their personal requirements during Haze periods, as stock levels of N95 masks in Singapore may be depleted or run out completely during periods of haze.

## 3. Policy

### 3.1 Actions taken by school

- HIS will follow and align to guidelines issued by Singapore's National Environment Agency (NEA), Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Manpower (MOM), or any other related government agencies regarding haze.
- Decisions on adjustments of daily programming activities and potential school closures will be based on The Ministry of Health advisory for the general public, which provides general advice on the preventative measures that can be taken to reduce the health impact of haze when air quality is poor.
- The school uses daily the National Environment Agency (NEA website) to monitor haze conditions.
  - The source of 24-hour PSI and 1-hour PM2.5 readings are [www.haze.gov.sg](http://www.haze.gov.sg) ([NEA-HAZE SG Microsite](#))
  - Planning for the next day activities, under haze conditions, will be undertaken in accordance with the HIS Haze 24 hr PSI based on the 24-hr PSI index taken at 6pm daily.
  - Planning for immediate activities will be undertaken in accordance with the HIS Haze 1-hr 2.5PM.
  - Actions to be taken before or during overseas trips are subject to the haze situation at the country of origin and the country of visit. The general rule is to follow the more stringent PSI or Air Quality Index (AQI) control matrix.
- HIS Health Department will hold sufficient emergency stock of N95/KN95 face masks for staff and all students with chronic lung conditions and/or conditions that are affected by haze but will not be able to provide sufficient stock for all students and staff members.
- Based on the HIS Haze Protocol, the school shall inform all parents of possible cancellations of school activities.
- Masks will be made available to staff whose work requires them to be predominantly outside. Service partners are requested to provide and keep a par stock of masks for their employees, i.e. security officers.
- The facilities team will implement control measures regarding air cleaning devices/aircon filters and prepare to assist to identify spaces for additional use.



### 3.2 Communication by school

- In periods of Haze the school will update parents via the weekly newsletter.
- If students are required to go inside immediately at the start of the day, they will be informed by staff upon arrival.
- In the event of cancellations of school activities will inform parents timely; initial communication will be done the day prior to the event/activity, followed by final decision on the day itself (e.g school competitions, schooltrips).
- In the event of school closure, students, staff, parents and any other third-party related partners will be informed you at the latest at 6 pm on the day of forecast.

### 4. Definitions

- Definitions PSI - PSI stands for Pollutant Standards Index. It is an index to provide accurate and easily understandable information about daily levels of air quality.
- PM2.5 - PM2.5 refers to atmospheric particulate matter (PM) that have a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres.
- N95/KN95- N95 or KN95 face mask/ respirator is an example of personal protective equipment that are used to protect the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.

### 5. References

HIS Haze Protocol, including 24hr- PSI and 1hr PSI matrixes

 [HIS Haze Protocol 2023/2024.pdf](#)

[NEA-HAZE SG Microsite](#)

[World's Air Pollution-Real Time Quality Index](#)

[Mobile apps \(myEnv and weather@SG\)](#)

[ASEAN-Haze Portal](#)

[MOE Haze Management Measures](#)

[NEA Websites - updates on mitigating measures](#)

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