

Why It's Important to Know the Weather and Air Quality

Monitoring both current and forecasted weather and air quality helps you plan activities and protect students from the risks of heat-related illness and poor air quality. These tools are essential for keeping everyone safe, especially during extreme heat or poor air quality days.

1. Sign Up to Receive Weather Advisories (see page 14 of toolkit)

Stay ahead of weather events by receiving real-time updates on both current and forecasted weather and air quality conditions in your area. Signing up for these notifications will help you plan for and take steps to protect students from potential risks.

How to Sign Up:

- 1. Click on the link to sign up for weather advisories: <u>Los Angeles County Department of Public Health</u> <u>Weather Advisories</u>
- 2. Enter your email address to start receiving updates. Updates include:
 - Heat Advisories
 - Excessive Heat Warnings
- 3. Check the advisories to see if your area is affected and scroll to the bottom of the notification for tips on how to stay safe.

2. Know the Weather in Your Area (see page 21 of toolkit)

Being aware of weather forecasts is crucial for planning and taking proactive steps to protect students and staff. Forecasts provide early warnings, which help you prepare for extreme heat before it sets in.

Why It Matters:

- Multiple days of extreme heat put students, staff, and athletes at higher risk for heat-related illnesses.
- Younger students may need closer supervision and extra support to avoid heat-related problems.
- Studies show that higher temperatures can make it harder to learn and focus in the classroom.

What to Do:

- Regularly assess the weather forecast to stay informed.
- Visit the National Weather Service Heat Risk site to check the temperature and risk levels.
- Pay attention to the HeatRisk level—this index provides guidance for heat-sensitive populations.





3. Know the Air Quality in Your Area (see pages 23-27 of toolkit)

It's also important to monitor air quality, especially for students and staff with respiratory conditions like asthma. Poor air quality can affect their health and may require indoor activities.

Current Air Quality Measurements:

• Use <u>Air Now</u> to find current air quality levels by zip code. The data is displayed on an easy-to-read map.

Forecast and Future Air Quality Measurements:

- Plan activities and events based on forecasted air quality. The AQI indicates health risks for different people, especially those who are more sensitive to air pollution.
- The <u>South Coast Air Quality Management District</u> provides air quality forecasts and details on how air quality may impact physical activities or events.

By staying informed, schools can help protect students from the dangers of extreme heat and poor air quality. Be proactive and keep everyone safe by using these tools to plan ahead.



This document contains information extracted from our <u>Toolkit to Protect Students from Extreme Heat on School Campus</u>

