



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide Air Quality Advisory Update

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Thursday, July 16, 2026) - Ohio EPA has issued a statewide Air Quality Advisory as smoke from Canadian wildfires continues to adversely impact air quality.

Ohio EPA will issue an expiration notice when the air quality improves, and the smoke has left the region. Pollutants across the state are expected to range from the **“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”** category in the southwestern part of the state to the **“Unhealthy”** category in the rest of the state. Hourly concentrations at times may reach the **“Very Unhealthy”** to **“Hazardous”** categories. For more information about the Air Quality Index and what each category means, view the [*Particle Pollution Air Quality Guide*](#).

It is recommended that, when possible, you avoid strenuous outdoor activities, especially those with heart disease and respiratory conditions like asthma. Watch for symptoms including wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, dizziness, or burning in the nose, throat, and eyes.

You can help reduce air pollution by eliminating outdoor burning and reducing the use of residential wood burning devices. Keep windows closed overnight to prevent smoke from getting indoors and, if possible, run central air conditioning with MERV-13 or higher rated filters. When possible, avoid creating smoke indoors by using gas or wood burning stoves, fireplaces, and candles, as these can all increase indoor pollutant concentrations.

To see real-time air quality in your area, visit the [*AirNow website*](#).