

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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September 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have started the 2020-2021 school year strongly with many students and families enthusiastic to be back in school. Rest assured, students and staff are safe, and our school settings remain healthy with cleaning protocols followed each day.

We recognize that the prevailing poor air quality from the Pacific coast wildfires drifting north poses a concern surrounding safety. Adhering to the advice of the Provincial Health Officer, schools are safe and, as such, we will remain open.

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for the Comox Valley remains at 10+ which is categorized as a 'high health risk'.

For AQHI 7 and above it is recommended to:

- Keep exterior windows and doors closed
- Allow students who are sensitive to the smoke remain indoors during lunch/breaks
- Reduce strenuous activities outdoors and 'children and the elderly should also take it easy' when outdoors.

For AQHI 10+ it is further recommended:

- Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.
- Doors and windows should remain closed. Strenuous exercise should be avoided outdoors, and staff and students with respiratory conditions should not venture outside and should ensure that they have rescue breathers/inhalers with them.

We appreciate the continued patience as we return to school and as we monitor the air quality to ensure everyone is safe and out of harms way.

Respectfully,



Tom Demeo  
Superintendent of Schools