



2021 - Air Quality for Outdoor Activities - Awareness and Adoption Survey - Individual, Parent, Coach, or Coordinator

Survey Introduction

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your feedback is important.

1. Who should participate in this survey?

This survey is intended to gather the viewpoints of individuals, parents/guardians, teachers, team leaders, or event organizers about issues relating to adverse air quality during outdoor events in Western Canada and the Territories.

Participation in this survey is strictly voluntary. You can leave the survey anytime before completing.

2. How much time it will take?

This survey has nine questions and should take about four minutes to complete.

3. What is the purpose of this survey?

In 2018, Health Canada supported the Regulatory and Strategic Affairs Center (RASAC) to promote RASAC's suggested Air Aware Initiative and Guidelines. In 2016, RASAC had brought together scientists and policy experts from Health Canada, Alberta Environment, and Alberta Health to support the creation of *Air Aware Initiative – a policy guideline for outdoor sports* ([Click here](#)). Now in 2021, Health Canada has asked RASAC to update and expand its *2016 Guidelines*.

To assist in this update, we need your help to understand better:

- **The level of awareness of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI),**
- **The use of AQHI in making outdoor activity decisions**
- **Current policies or guidelines related to adverse air quality,**
- **Barriers to adverse air quality policy or guideline adoption.**

4. Ethics

All answers to this survey are anonymous. We will summarize data by question, and where

appropriate, by region, to give a picture of the current level of awareness and adoption of policies to manage organized outdoor activities in the face of adverse air quality. The summarized results will form part of a larger report that will be publicly available in 2021.

You will benefit from participating by helping shape the final policy. Your name will not appear in any publication BUT you are free to let others know of your participation.

If you would like a paper copy of this survey or have questions/comments please contact Richard Dixon at richard@rasac.ca.

This study has been reviewed and approved by Health Canada. Should you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Health Canada's Opel Vuzi at opel.vuzi@canada.ca.



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Who is completing the survey (Question 1).

Tell us from what perspective you are completing this survey. Depending how you answer you will be directed to questions relevant to that perspective. If you wish to also complete the survey from a different perspective, complete the one you are on and then use the survey link to start again selecting the different perspective.

* 1. Who are you answering the survey for?

- Myself - I am responding as a participant in outdoor activities.
- My family - I am responding as a parent or guardian for my children
- My sports team(s) - I am responding for my sports team(s) as a coach, captain, teacher, or manager
- My non-team event(s) - I am responding as an organizer of an event, other than a sports event (e.g., festival, school activity, summer camp)



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These questions are to be answered from an individual participant's perspective

* 2. Which of the following best describes the **main** outdoor activity you participate in when responding to this survey?

- Professional sports
- Team sports (e.g., Football, soccer, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, baseball, rugby, lacrosse, ultimate (frisbee), ball/road hockey, cricket, pickle ball)
- Golfing, croquet, lawn darts, lawn bowling
- Walking, hiking, jogging, running, cross-country running
- Bicycling, rollerblading, skateboarding
- Track and field, non-team activities in High School, College or University
- Organized outdoor activities or events such as camps, Scouts, Guides, festivals, etc.
- Other (please specify)

* 3. In which place do most of your outdoor activities happen?

- Vancouver Island
- Vancouver and the Lower Mainland in B.C.
- B.C., **but outside of** Vancouver Island, Vancouver, or the Lower Mainland
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Alberta, **but outside of** Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Regina or Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan, **but outside of** Regina or Saskatoon
- Winnipeg
- Manitoba, **but outside of** Winnipeg
- Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut
- Other (please specify)

* 4. What is your age?

- 18 and younger
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

* 5. As an individual are you aware of Health Canada's Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)([Click here](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)

* 6. During adverse air quality events, at what AQHI level have you refrained from or stopped participating in an outdoor activity?

- At an AQHI level between 4 and 6
- At an AQHI level of 7
- At an AQHI level between 8 and 10
- At an AQHI level above 10
- I did not use the AQHI, but stopped when I was uncomfortable
- I waited for event organizers to stop the outdoor activity during adverse air quality events.
- I did not stop my outdoor activity for adverse air quality events
- Other (please specify)

* 7. If your outdoor activity is part of an organized event (e.g., team, class, school, club, etc.), are you aware of the organization having guidelines or policies for adverse air quality conditions whereby the activity is stopped if an adverse air quality event reaches a certain level?

- Yes, there is a guideline/policy
- No, there is no guideline/policy
- There is no guideline/policy that I am aware of
- My outdoor activity is not part of organized event (e.g., team, class, school, club, etc.),

* 8. If the organization for your outdoor activity does **not** have a policy, are you aware of any barriers that would prevent the organization from adopting policy and practices to manage organized outdoor activities during adverse air quality conditions?

- Yes
- No
- My activity is not part of an organized event (e.g., team, class, school, club, etc.)
- The organization for my outdoor activity DOES have a policy
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)



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These questions are to be answered from a parent or guardian perspective

* 9. Which of the following best describes your child's or children's **main** outdoor activities you are considering when responding to this survey? (when more than one child, select all answers that apply)

- Professional sports
- Team sports (e.g., Football, soccer, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, baseball, rugby, lacrosse, ultimate (frisbee), ball/road hockey, cricket, pickle ball, etc.)
- Golfing, croquet, lawn darts, lawn bowling
- Walking, hiking, jogging, running, cross-country running
- Bicycling, rollerblading, skateboarding
- School (Pre-school, Daycare, After-school, K-12)
- Organized outdoor activities or events such as camps, Scouts, Guides, festivals, etc.
- Other (please specify)

* 10. In which place do the majority of your child's or children's outdoor activities happen?

- Vancouver Island
- Vancouver and the Lower Mainland in B.C.
- B.C. **but outside of** Vancouver Island, Vancouver, or the Lower Mainland
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Alberta, **but outside of** Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Regina or Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan, **but outside of** Regina or Saskatoon
- Winnipeg
- Manitoba, but outside of Winnipeg
- Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut

* 11. How many children are you responding for in this survey?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- More than 4

* 12. Are you or your family aware of Health Canada's Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)([Click here](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)

* 13. During adverse air quality events, at what AQHI level have you required your child/children to refrain from or stop participating in an outdoor activity?

- At an AQHI level between 4 and 6
- At an AQHI level of 7
- At an AQHI level between 8 and 10
- At an AQHI level above 10
- I did not use the AQHI, but stopped my child/children from participating in their outdoor activity when I felt they were being impacted
- I waited for event organizers to stop the outdoor activity during adverse air quality events before removing my children.
- I did not stop my child/children's from participating in their outdoor activity for adverse air quality events
- Other (please specify)

* 14. If your child/children's outdoor activity is part of an organized event (e.g., team, class, school, club, etc.), are you aware of the organization having guidelines or policies for adverse air quality conditions whereby play is stopped if an adverse air quality event reaches a certain level?

- Yes, there is a guideline/policy
- No, there is no guideline/policy
- There is no guideline/policy that I am aware of
- My child/children's outdoor activity is (are) not part of an organized event

* 15. If the organization for your child/children's outdoor activity **does not** have a policy, are you aware of any barriers that would prevent the organization from adopting policy and practices to manage organized outdoor activities during adverse air quality conditions?

- Yes
- No
- The organization for my child/children's activity DOES have a policy
- My child's/children's activity is not part of an organized event (e.g., team, class, school, club, etc.)
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)



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Questions for a Sports Team Leader's Perspective (e.g. coach, captain, teacher, or manager)

* 16. Which of the following best describes the **main** outdoor sport you are considering when responding to this survey?

- Football
- Soccer
- Baseball or softball
- Ultimate
- Rugby
- Lacrosse
- Field, ball or road hockey
- Cricket
- Other
- Other (please specify)

* 17. In which place do the majority of your team's or teams' outdoor activities happen?

- Vancouver Island
- Vancouver and the Lower Mainland in B.C.
- B.C., **but outside of** Vancouver Island, Vancouver, or the Lower Mainland
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Alberta, **but outside of** Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Regina or Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan, **but outside of** Regina or Saskatoon
- Winnipeg
- Manitoba, **but outside of** Winnipeg
- Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut

* 18. How many teams are you responding for in this survey?

- 1
- 2 - 3
- 4 - 5
- 5 - 7
- more than 7

* 19. As a team official or teacher, are you aware of Health Canada's Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) ([Click here](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)

* 20. During adverse air quality events, at what AQHI level did you decide to remove your players during organized play?*

*Note: This question deals with games, the next question deals with practices.

- At an AQHI level between 4 and 6
- At an AQHI level of 7
- At an AQHI level between 8 and 10
- At an AQHI level above 10
- I did not use the AQHI, but removed my team(s) when I felt they were being impacted
- I waited for event decision-makers to stop play
- I did not remove my team from play for adverse air quality events
- Other (please specify)

* 21. During adverse air quality events, at what AQHI level did you decide to stop your players from outdoor practice?

- At an AQHI level between 4 and 6
- At an AQHI level of 7
- At an AQHI level between 8 and 10
- At an AQHI level above 10
- I did not use the AQHI, but stopped my team(s)' practice when I felt they were being impacted
- I did not stop my team from outdoor practice for adverse air quality events
- Other (please specify)

* 22. Are you aware if your team's umbrella organization (ie., league, school board, etc.) has a guideline or policy for adverse air quality conditions?

- Yes, there is a guideline/policy
- No, there is no guideline/policy
- There is no guideline/policy that I am aware of
- My team(s) outdoor sport is not part of an umbrella organization

* 23. If your team(s) umbrella organization **does not** have a policy, are you aware of any barriers that would prevent the organization from adopting a guideline/policy to manage organized outdoor activities during adverse air quality conditions?

- Yes
- No
- My team(s)' umbrella organization does have a policy
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)



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These questions are to be answered from an event* organizer's perspective

*** Events are non-sport events including festivals, concerts, non-sports school activities, summer camps, etc.**

* 24. Which of the following best describes the **main** outdoor activity that you organize when responding to this survey?

- School (Pre-school, Daycare, After-school, K-8, High School, College or University)
- Organized outdoor activities or events such as camps or retreats
- Festivals, concerts
- Community or group activities (Scouts, Guides, religious, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

* 25. In which place do the majority of your outdoor activities happen?

- Vancouver Island
- Vancouver and the Lower Mainland in B.C.
- B.C., **but outside of** Vancouver Island, Vancouver, or the Lower Mainland
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Alberta, **but outside of** Calgary, Edmonton, or Red Deer
- Regina or Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan, **but outside of** Regina or Saskatoon
- Winnipeg
- Manitoba, **but outside of** Winnipeg
- Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut

* 26. How many people are involved in your outdoor event?

- less than 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 250
- 251 - 500
- more than 501

* 27. As an event organizer, are you aware of Health Canada's Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)([Click here](#))?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)

* 28. During adverse air quality events, at what AQHI level have you decided to stop or postpone an outdoor activity?

- At an AQHI level between 4 and 6
- At an AQHI level of 7
- At an AQHI level between 8 and 10
- At an AQHI level above 10
- We did not use the AQHI, but stopped the event when we felt participants were being impacted
- We did not end our event for adverse air quality
- Other (please specify)

* 29. Are you aware if your event or its organization has a guideline or policy for adverse air quality conditions?

- Yes, there is a guideline/policy
- No, there is no guideline/policy
- There is no guideline/policy that I am aware of
- Other (please specify)

* 30. If your outdoor activity organization **does not** have a policy, are you aware of any barriers that would prevent the organization from adopting policy and practices to manage organized outdoor activities during adverse air quality conditions?

- Yes
- No
- The organization does have an adverse air quality policy
- Not sure
- Other (please specify)



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Thank you for completing our survey.

Before you leave are there any questions, observations, or comments that you have? Please leave them below or email the survey organizer: richard@rasac.ca

* 31. If you responded "yes" to the question about barriers to adopting a policy, what is the barrier preventing the adoption of a policy for adverse air events?

**participants refers to all people impacted by a decision to alter a scheduled organized outdoor activity event, including: players, students, spectators, group leaders, teachers and school administrators, parents, referees, coaching staff, field personnel, and others.*

*** alter or altered means cancelled, rescheduled, postponed, moved to another venue, or otherwise changed.*

- Lack of resources to implement a science-based policy for adverse air quality
- Lack of, or access to, AQHI data for the geographic location of the event
- Difficulty notifying participants* that the event is altered**
- Cost to alter** an event (e.g., loss of deposit / payment for facilities, transportation or accommodations, refund of tickets)
- Participants* would object to organization's decision to alter** the event
- Other (please specify)

32. Any other comments?