



Air Quality Policy

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Applies to:	Camp Yowochas Operations	
Final Approval Authority:	CEO	
Policy Input Provided By:	Director, Finance & Operations; Yowochas Senior Staff	
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Version	Date	Change Description
1.0	2023	Policy Created
1.1	June 11, 2025	Minor Policy Revisions and Clarifications

POLICY

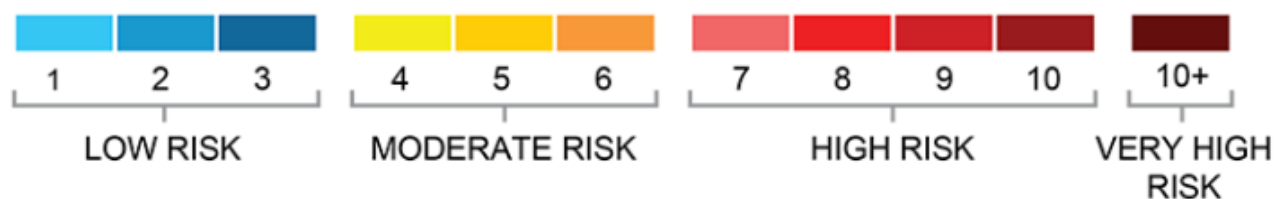
To provide guidance for Camp Yowochas staff in ensuring safe programming during periods of poor air quality due to wildfire smoke, pollution, or other environmental factors that impact air quality.

POLICY STATEMENT

The safety of all YWCA Edmonton employees, clients, campers and members of the public accessing Camp Yowochas is of paramount importance.

YWCA Edmonton uses the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to assess health risks associated with changing air conditions. The AQHI provides a scale that indicates the relative risk poor air quality poses to the general public, with added emphasis on at-risk groups such as individuals with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, children, and older adults.

As AQHI levels rise, the potential for negative health effects increases. Camp Yowochas staff will monitor air quality and take appropriate precautions to modify programming as needed, prioritizing low-exertion or indoor activities where necessary. While Camp Yowochas will make every effort to accommodate bookings, safety remains the guiding priority.



PROCEDURE

- 1) Camp management on site will monitor the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) at least twice daily during periods of elevated risk, and more frequently during air quality alerts.

- 2) Camp management will assess the risk level of the group out at camp through:
 - a) discussions about pre-existing conditions, and
 - b) observation of clients/campers during outdoor activities
- 3) Camp staff will follow the health guidelines outlined below and adjust activities as needed based on current air quality conditions:

Health Risk	Air Quality Health Index	Health Messages		Camp Yowochas Operational Response
		At Risk Population	General Population	
Low Risk	1-3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.	All outdoor activities proceed as planned .
Moderate Risk	4-6	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.	Outdoor activities continue with reduced intensity for at-risk individuals. Indoor options made available as needed.
High Risk	7-10	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.	Modify all programming to low-exertion or indoor activities.
Very High Risk	10+	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.	All activities moved indoors.

- 4) If a group is unable to attend camp due to air quality concerns, Camp Yowochas staff will make every effort to reschedule their visit within the calendar year.
- 5) Refunds will not be issued if a group chooses to cancel due to air quality. In exceptional cases, the Director of Finance and Operations may consider alternatives, including rescheduling or partial credit, at their discretion.
- 6) Camp Yowochas will make every effort to accommodate groups and adjust programming based on current air quality conditions. However, in rare circumstances where air quality poses a significant health risk and no safe alternative programming can be offered, Camp Yowochas reserves the right to cancel or postpone bookings.