

Raise community awareness about outdoor air quality



About the Air Quality Flag Program

The Air Quality Flag Program from the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** is a great way to create public awareness of outdoor air quality conditions. Participating organizations display a colored flag each day that corresponds with the local air quality forecast so that community members know when they may need to limit outdoor activity to protect their lung health.

Air pollution can harm anyone, but can be especially dangerous for particular groups like children and teens, seniors, people with lung disease, and even healthy adults who exercise outside. Activities can be modified or moved inside to protect lung health during periods of unhealthy air quality.

Corresponding to the Air Quality Index, the Air Quality Flag Program uses five colored flags:

- **Green:** Good air quality
- **Yellow:** Moderate air quality
- **Orange:** Unhealthy air quality for sensitive groups (including children)
- **Red:** Unhealthy air quality
- **Purple:** Very Unhealthy

Get Involved

The American Lung Association in Tennessee has sets of colored flags, promotional materials, toolkits, and corresponding curriculum available for FREE for Tennessee schools and other organizations interested in participating in the Air Quality Flag Program.

Resources include coordinator handbook, sample letters to parents and neighbor businesses, template press releases, posters, fact sheets, classroom worksheets, K-8 air quality teacher's curriculum, lung health resources and more.

Contact Us

For more information and to receive program materials, go to Lung.org/TN-air-quality-flags

Questions? Contact

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WHY ADOPT THE PROGRAM

The Air Quality Flag Program is a great tool to increase awareness of bad air quality conditions. The program notifies people to take necessary precautions to protect their health on bad air quality days to prevent coughing, wheezing, and asthma attacks.

The flag colors correspond to colors used in EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI), which tells how clean or polluted the air is that day. This is particularly important for groups at greater risk from pollution, including children, people with asthma or heart disease, older adults and those who are active outdoors.



600-800

emergency department visits in Tennessee are linked to ozone pollution annually

ED VISITS



On average, **15**

days are above ozone air quality health standards in Tennessee every year

DAYS



62,000

Tennessee school-aged children have asthma and are at-risk of attacks on bad air quality days

KIDS



Data gathered from the Tennessee Department of Health and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Great day to be active outside!

Good day to be active outside.*

Air is unhealthy for children, older adults, and people with asthma.

Air quality is unhealthy. Take precautions.

It's a good day to play inside.

*Students who are sensitive to pollution could have symptoms.