

MEDIA RELEASE

July 15, 2026

Orange Level Air Quality Warning Issued for Chatham-Kent

Poor air quality in Chatham-Kent is expected later today, as smoke from wildfires in northwestern Ontario moves into the area. Poor air quality may persist through Friday July 17, 2026.

Wildfire smoke can be harmful to everyone's health, even at low concentrations. Additionally, people with lung disease (such as asthma) or heart disease, older adults, children, pregnant people, and people who work outdoors are at higher risk of experiencing health effects caused by wildfire smoke. Take the following actions to reduce exposure:

- **Monitor your health.** Stop or reduce activity levels and contact a health care provider if you or someone in your care experiences shortness of breath, wheezing (including asthma attacks), severe cough, dizziness or chest pains. Stay inside if you are feeling unwell and experiencing symptoms.
- **Keep your indoor air clean.** Keep your doors and windows closed if the temperature in your home is comfortable. Use an air purifier with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter in a room where you spend a lot of time. Avoid air purifiers that produce ozone. Check the filter and change it if required.
- **Take a break from the smoke.** Temporarily relocate or find a location in your community with clean, cool air such as a public library, shopping mall or community centre.
- **If you must spend time outdoors, consider masking up.** A well-fitted respirator-type mask (such as a NIOSH certified N95 or equivalent respirator) can help reduce your exposure to the fine particles in smoke that pose the greatest risk to health. Note that respirators do not reduce exposure to the gases in wildfire smoke. It is important to listen to your body and reduce or stop activities if you are experiencing symptoms.
- **Check up on people.** Check in on others who are in your care or live nearby who may be more susceptible to smoke.
- **Be aware of your mental health.** It is normal to feel anxious or isolated during a smoke event. If you experience feelings of stress, anxiety, or depression, contact your mental health care provider for advice.

Visit www.airhealth.ca for more information. Continue to monitor alerts and forecasts issued by Environment Canada.

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