

# Air Quality Forecast and Dispersion Outlook of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania for 07/20/2021

**Air Quality Forecast:** This is the daily forecasted Air Quality Index (AQI) for each area provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The AQI is based on PM2.5 or Ozone, whichever is forecasted to be higher.




Forecast Period	Pittsburgh Area	Liberty-Clairton Area
<b>Today</b> Tuesday 7/20/21	PM2.5 <b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> 110 AQI	PM2.5 <b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> 110 AQI
<b>Tomorrow</b> Wednesday 7/21/21	PM2.5 <b>Moderate</b> 72 AQI	PM2.5 <b>Moderate</b> 70 AQI

**Today's Forecast:** High pressure will allow for another day of mostly sunny skies across the region. Winds will be light, limiting mixing for the day. A plume of smoke moving overhead from wildfires across Canada will cause **concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM-2.5) to rise to levels in the code ORANGE range, which are conditions that are unhealthy for sensitive groups.** Ozone levels will climb into the moderate range but should be limited to that with the haze from the smoke present.

See Page 2 for the Air Quality Index guide

[Data provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection](#)

**ACHD Air Dispersion 36-Hour Forecast:** This is the dispersion forecast for Allegheny County starting from this morning through tomorrow afternoon. The atmospheric dispersion index is a rating of the atmosphere's ability to transport pollution away from its source and is based on emissions and weather. Better atmospheric dispersion can improve air quality.

Forecast Period		Atmospheric Dispersion Index	Surface Inversion Strength	Wind (dir, mph)
<b>Today</b>	 Morning	Poor – 10	Moderate	W 5
	Afternoon	Fair – 38	--	W 5
<b>Tonight</b>	 Evening	Very Poor – 4	--	W 5
	Overnight	Very Poor – 4	--	W 5
<b>Tomorrow</b>	 Morning	Fair – 33	Slight to Weak	NW 5 to 10
	Afternoon	Good – 69	--	NW 5 to 10

See page 2 for the Atmospheric Dispersion Index guide and the daily Surface Temperature Inversion Report.

**ACHD Remarks:** Please consider the following actions to help reduce pollution today: (1) reduce or eliminate fireplace and wood stove use, (2) avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment, and (3) avoid burning leaves, trash and other materials.

Data provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) [Fire Weather Planning Forecast](#) and [PIT NWS Products](#)

## Guide to the Air Quality Index (AQI)

Color	Description	Meaning	AQI
Red	Unhealthy	Everyone should limit exertion outdoors.	151 - 200
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should limit exertion outdoors.	101 - 150
Yellow	Moderate	Extremely sensitive people may wish to limit outdoor exertion.	51 - 100
Green	Good	No health impacts are expected in this range.	0 - 50

## Guide to the Atmospheric Dispersion Index

Very Poor	Poor	Generally Poor	Fair	Generally Good	Good	Very Good
1 - 6	7 - 12	13 - 20	21 - 40	41 - 60	61 - 100	> 100

### ACHD Surface Temperature Inversion Report:

*This is the 7 AM surface-based temperature inversion report for Allegheny County.*

This morning's surface inversion of **3.8°C** with a depth of **163 m** is estimated to break at **9:30 am**. This surface inversion can be characterized as: None / Slight / Weak / **Moderate** / Strong.

No inversion above ~1000 meters is reported.

### What does the Surface Temperature Inversion Report mean?

A surface temperature inversion is a weather pattern that stops mixing of the air near the ground, and pollution released into the air tends to remain at higher concentrations.

Surface temperature inversion conditions include how strong the surface inversion is (in °C), how high the inversion is above the surface (in meters), and when the inversion is expected to break (in Eastern Standard Time). Also included is whether an upper-level inversion or inversions exist, starting at about 1,000 meters.

#### Surface Temperature Inversion Characterization

- 0-0.9 C°: Slight
- 1-2.9 C°: Weak
- 3-4.9 C°: Moderate
- ≥5 C°: Strong

