

Air Quality Forecast and Dispersion Outlook of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania for 3/18/2022

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
Today Friday 3/18/22	PM2.5 Moderate 65 AQI	PM2.5 Moderate 90 AQI
Tomorrow Saturday 3/19/22	PM2.5 Good 42 AQI	PM2.5 Good 45 AQI

Today's Forecast: PM2.5 will be highest Friday morning prior to 11 am as an inversion will persist with light winds. Better air quality will occur by the afternoon with winds increasing from the southeast. It will be another warm afternoon with temperatures moving into the lower 70s. The overall 24-hour PM2.5 averages for Liberty-Clairton will be well into the moderate range.

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)
Today	Morning 	Generally Poor - 17	Strong	SE 3 to SSE 3-6
	Afternoon	Good - 98	--	SSE 6-7 to SE 6-7
Tonight	Evening 	Poor - 9	--	SE 6 to S 7-8
	Overnight	Poor - 9	--	S 7
Tomorrow	Morning 	Good - 97	None	SSW 7 to SW 11-15 Gust 23-28
	Afternoon	Very Good - 129	--	SW 14-16 Gust 25-28

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

ACHD Remarks: Chance of rain tonight and tomorrow.

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 **6.0 °C** with a depth of **212 m** is estimated to break at **11:30 AM**. This surface inversion can be characterized as: None / Slight / Weak / Moderate / **Strong**.

No upper inversion starting below ~1000 m is reported.

What does the Surface Temperature Inversion 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

