

Air Quality Forecast and Dispersion Outlook of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania for 3/3/23

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 3/3/23	PM2.5 Good 28 AQI	PM2.5 Good 25 AQI
Tomorrow Saturday 3/4/23	PM2.5 Good 26 AQI	PM2.5 Good 25 AQI




Today's Forecast:

Rain expected in the area late in the morning and continuing into the early part of Friday night. Heavier rainfall and gusty east to southeast winds will not allow for high PM2.5 levels. As low pressure moves off to the east Saturday, winds will shift to the west and northwest and be gusty. A rain shower or two can also occur during the morning. High pressure building in Sunday allows for more sunshine and a milder afternoon. Good air quality will prevail Saturday, then may turn moderate in parts of the area Sunday into Monday

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	44 – Generally Good	Moderate	E 5-15
	Afternoon	48 – Generally Good	--	E 15-25 Gusts 30-45
Tonight	 Evening	38 – Fair	--	SE 30-35 Gusts 40-50
	Overnight	44 – Generally Good	--	W-SW 25-35 Gusts 35-50
Tomorrow	 Morning	79 – Good	--	W 20-30 Gusts 30-40
	Afternoon	73 – Good	--	W 10-15

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

ACHD Remarks:

Strong gusts are forecasted to start during the afternoon of Friday 3/2/23 into the morning of Saturday 3/4/23. Additionally, significant potential for precipitation expected from the afternoon through the early morning of Saturday 3/4/23.

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 inversion of 3.4 °C with a depth of 253 m is estimated to break at 10:00 AM.

This inversion can be characterized as: None / Slight / Weak / **Moderate** / Strong.

There is an inversion above ~1000 meters 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

