

ENVIRONMENTAL ODORS & SCHOOL GUIDANCE



HEALTH IMPACTS

Hydrogen sulfide is a colorless gas. At low levels, it has a strong smell similar to rotten eggs. The health impact of environmental odors depend on the sensitivity of the person, intensity of the activity, and length of exposure. People may experience nausea, headaches, throat irritation, and breathing problems.

STEPS TO TAKE

While the effort to address environmental odors continues, there are steps schools can take to protect the health of students and staff.

Reduce Exposure



- Limit outdoor activities for students when odors are particularly bothersome.
- Provide students and staff with free access to disposable masks. Masks should be changed at least twice per day during school hours.
- Keep windows and doors closed when outdoor odors have intensified or are bothersome.

Improve Air Quality



- Use heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and MERV-rated filters with activated charcoal. Use certified portable HEPA filters with activated charcoal in buildings without HVAC systems.
- Air out classrooms when odors are not present.

Watch for Symptoms



- Students with asthma should have their medications available at school offices.
- Advise parents who have children with respiratory or heart conditions to talk with their family doctor.
- Seek medical care for any person at school with persistent or worsening symptoms.

REPORT ODORS

School staff can report odor complaints to the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) by:

- Mobile app (download by scanning QR code to the right),
- Phone at (858) 586-2650,
- Email to apcdcomp@sdapcd.org, or
- Visit www.sdapcd.org/complaints.



MORE INFORMATION

Scan this QR code, or visit sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth.

