



ADVISORY TO WEAR FACE MASK IN OPEN PUBLIC PLACES IN LAHORE, GUJRANWALA, FAISALABAD AND MULTAN DIVISION U/S 6(1) (o) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1997

ADVICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, Government of Punjab is striving hard to control all possible intrinsic factors which cause air pollution and deteriorate quality of ambient air. Pre-emptive measures against all the sources of air pollution have already been started by EPA as well as other departments concerned.

2. **AND WHEREAS**, as per Section 2(xxxiii) of The Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997, **pollution** means the contamination of air, land or water by the discharge or emission of effluents or wastes or air pollutants or noise or other matter which either directly or indirectly or in combination with other discharges or substances alters unfavorably the chemical, physical, biological, radiation, thermal or radiological or aesthetic properties of the air, land or water or which may, or is likely to make the air, land or water unclean, noxious or impure or injurious, disagreeable or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or property of persons or harmful to biodiversity;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, the recent spike in respiratory diseases due to smoke, dust etc is posing a serious and imminent threat to public health. Hence, it is imperative to take all possible safety measures for prevention of morbidity and disease caused by deteriorating air quality.

4. **AND WHEREAS** the **Health Advisory System for Critical Air Pollution Events** (HAS-CAPEs) has been notified on 13.12.2022 under which the 1st meeting of Provincial CAPEs Committee (PCC) was held on 21.10.2024 which declared that Critical Air Pollution Event has taken place in Lahore, keeping in view the current high levels of Air Quality Index (AQI).

5. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh (PAS), Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab in exercise of the powers conferred upon me u/s 6(1) (o) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, do hereby advise the general

public of Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Multan Divisions to wear face mask in open public spaces till 31st January, 2025.

Issued under my hand and seal on this 6th day of November, 2024.

M. Imran

Dr. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
PUNJAB

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

- I. The Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department Punjab
- II. The Commissioner, Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Multan
- III. The Director General, DGPR, Lahore.
- IV. The Secretary, Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab
- V. The Additional Secretary (Staff), Chief Secretary's Office, Lahore.
- VI. The Additional Secretary (Coordination), Chief Minister Office, Lahore.
- VII. The Chief Environment & Climate Change, P&D Board, Lahore.
- VIII. PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D
- IX. The Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Nankana, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Mandi Bahudin, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal **for extensive public awareness campaigns in this regard**
- X. The Deputy/ Assistant Director (Field), EPA, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Nankana, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Mandi Bahudin, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal
- XI. PA to Director General EPA Punjab

06/11/24

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07/11/2024
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