



CLOSURE/ SHIFTING TO ONLINE MODE BY SCHOOLS UPTO HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL U/S 6(1)(t) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1997

ORDER

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 concerned departments.

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**, Section 6(1) (t) of the ibid Act empowers EPA to take or cause to be taken all necessary measures for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of the environment, prevention and control of pollution and promotion of sustainable development;

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) (t) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, do hereby order that all the

educational institutions, including private tuition centers (public/private) upto **Higher Secondary Level (12th Grade/ A-level)** shall remain closed and will shift to online mode.

6. This order shall come into force with effect from **7th November 2024 (Thursday)** and remain in force till **17th November 2024 (Sunday)** within the territorial jurisdictions of Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Multan Divisions i.e., **Districts of Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahudin, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal.**

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


DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)
Director General
Environmental Protection Agency
Punjab

Copy forwarded for information:

- The Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department, Punjab
- The Secretary, Schools Education Department with the request to get this order implemented in the field.
- The Commissioner Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan Division.
- The Director General Public Relations (DGPR) with a request to ensure wide publicity.
- The Capital City Police Officer, Lahore.
- The Deputy Commissioners, District Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahudin, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal.
- The Secretary, Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab.
- The Additional Secretary (Staff), Chief Secretary's Office, Lahore.
- The Additional Secretary (Coordination), Chief Minister Office, Lahore.
- The Chief Environment & Climate Change, P&D Board, Lahore.
- PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D
- PSO to Provincial Police Office/ IGP, Punjab
- The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab
- The In-charge Smog War Room, EPA Headquarters, Lahore.
- The Deputy / Assistant Directors (Field), EPA, District Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahudin, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal.
- The Chairperson, Private Schools Association, Punjab for circulation among the concerned private educational institutions in the said districts.
- PA to Director General EPA Punjab