



**No. 124/PA/DG/2024**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
NATIONAL HOCKEY STADIUM FERROZEPUR ROAD, LAHORE  
Dated: 12.11.2024



To

1. All the Administrative Secretaries,  
Punjab
2. All the Heads of Attached Departments,  
Punjab
3. All the Heads of Semi-Government / Autonomous Bodies,  
Punjab

Subject: **SHIFTING OF 50% HR STRENGTH TO ONLINE MODE AND ONLINE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS IN WAKE OF DETERIORATING AIR QUALITY / SMOG MENACE**

It is to draw your kind attention to a matter of grave concern regarding the health and well-being of the citizens of Punjab. An unprecedented rise in the number of patients with lungs and respiratory diseases, allergies, eye and throat irritation is being observed due to severe deterioration in air quality in the past ten days. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is consistently reaching harmful levels (around 500 in many parts of the province) leading to the spread of conjunctivitis / pink eye disease due to bacterial or viral infection, smoke, dust or chemical exposure which is posing a serious and imminent threat to public health.

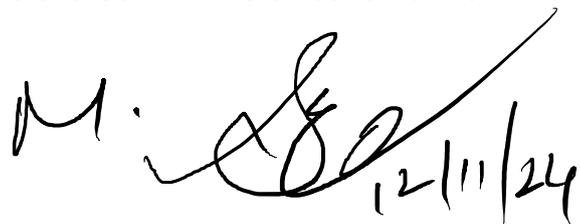
2. The said situation is likely to prevail for a few weeks due to the current weather phenomenon in which thick polluted air is likely to remain trapped near the ground due to temperature inversion and negligible wind speed. In addition, the local pollution contributing factors, **especially vehicular emissions**, may further exacerbate the said conditions. Hence, the situation warrants to specify safeguards to reduce the number of vehicles on roads in order to control air pollution, through preparation and implementation of contingency plans.

3. It is pertinent to mention here that one of the functions of Environmental Protection Agency Punjab **under Section 6(1)(r) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997** is to specify safeguards for the prevention of accidents and disasters which may cause pollution, collaborate with the concerned person in the preparation of contingency plans for control of such accidents and disasters, and co-ordinate implementation of such plans.

4. Apropos, in order to reduce traffic load on roads, kindly prepare and implement the smog contingency plan of your respective organizations, including but not limited to the following measures:

- a) The physical presence of human resource of offices in your jurisdiction may kindly be reduced to 50% by shifting them to online mode / work from home.
- b) The inter-departmental meetings may be convened in an online mode, unless physical presence of participants is extremely necessary.
- c) Any other measure like carpooling etc.

5. The said contingency plan may also be shared with this office for further necessary action at this end, please.



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

**Copy forwarded for information:**

- i. The Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department, Punjab
- ii. All the Divisional Commissioners of Punjab for making similar arrangements in their respective Divisional offices, keeping in view their administrative requirements
- iii. All the Deputy Commissioners of Punjab for making similar arrangements in their respective districts, keeping in view their administrative requirements
- 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. PSO to Provincial Police Office/ IGP, Punjab
- x. The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab
- xi. The In-charge Smog War Room, EPA Headquarters, Lahore.
- xii. All the Deputy / Assistant Directors (Field), EPA Punjab.
- xiii. PA to Director General EPA Punjab