



**CHANGE OF SCHOOL TIMINGS U/S 6(1)(t) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1997**

**ORDER**

WHEREAS, Environmental Protection Agency, Govt. of Punjab is striving hard to combat the devastating impacts of smog that is likely prevail from October-December, 2024. Addressing critical air pollution events is crucial to protect public health, especially for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly, as prolonged exposure to pollutants can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

2. **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;

3. **AND WHEREAS** the Health Advisory System for Critical Air Pollution Events (HAS-CAPEs) has been notified on 13.12.2022 under which the meeting of Provincial CAPEs Committee (PCC) was held on 21.10.2024 in which it was unanimously agreed to issue the health advisory keeping in view the recent rise in Air Quality Index above critical level of 150 for two consecutive days.

4. **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, henceforth, the opening timing shall not be before 8:45 am in all the public and private schools within the territorial jurisdiction of District Lahore.

5. **Any contravention to this order shall be punished under relevant legal framework.**

6. **This order shall come into force with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Monday) and will remain in force till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**

Issued under my hand and seal on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Oct, 2024.

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

**Copy forwarded for information:**

- The Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department, Punjab
- The Secretary, School Education Department with the request to get this order implemented in the field.
- The Director General Public Relations (DGPR) with a request to ensure wide publicity of this advice.
- The Commissioner Lahore Division, Lahore
- The Capital City Police Officer, Lahore
- The Deputy Commissioner, Lahore
- 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 focal person concerned.
- The Deputy Director (Field), EPA, Lahore
- PA to Director General EPA Punjab