

Air pollution : protocols and arrangements for the protection of members of the school community at the French International School of Bangkok

Madam, Sir,

Current air pollution indicators, as well as questions recently asked by parents, are an opportunity for the Management Team to remind you of the measures taken and protocols applied at LFIB.

1) Pollution Rate Indicators

The city of Bangkok has deployed a system of sensors and real-time communication of pollution levels. The reference station for the LFIB is the sensor station installed at the SISB (Singapore School).

The reference rate is the measurement rate in PM 2.5. This rate is measured four times a day. A first reading is sent to the staff before the start of classes, before breaks and before the start of AES activities.

The pollution indicator is put online on the website (on the home page) before the beginning of classes. A new communication takes place in case of a change in the rate.

These measurements are also displayed in total transparency at the entrances to the establishment on large screens.

Manual checks are also carried out.

2) Installation of 3M filters in all rooms

All classrooms, study rooms, BCD, CDI, and offices are equipped with 3M filters.

At every small holiday, maintenance is carried out on all air conditioners and compressors, and 3M filters are changed.

Measurements are taken regularly in different classrooms.

Protocols for entering the rooms are given to teachers in order to reduce the time it takes to open doors.

3) Installation of purifiers in classrooms and other rooms in Kindergarten

The kindergarten classrooms and dormitories have been equipped with 3M filters and purifiers of different brands since the beginning of the 2019 school year. This allows us to make differentiated measurements in neighbouring rooms with the different possible combinations (3M filters - purifier - 3M filter and purifier).

These measurements have shown that the addition of a purifier in a room already equipped with a 3M filter does not bring any significant added value. It is therefore not necessary to cumulate the two devices.

4) The protocol in effect at the LFIB

The following protocol is applied:

LFIB Protocol			
AQI PM2.5	Classification	Description	Actions
0 - 50 0 - 12	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory and the atmospheric pollution causes little or no risk.	For all : normal activities
51-100 12.1-35.4	Moderate	The air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a moderate health issue for some people (vulnerable persons).	For students with respiratory conditions: control and observation. For all : normal activities.
101-125 35.5-45.2	Unhealthy for vulnerable groups Phase 1	Monitoring symptoms in children at risk. Others are not likely to be affected.	For students with respiratory conditions: adjustment of sports activities. Recreation and outdoor games limited For all : normal activities.
126-149 45.3-55.4	Unhealthy for vulnerable groups Phase 2	Everyone can be affected by certain adverse health effects: children, active adults, as well as people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor efforts.	For students with respiratory conditions: sports activities stopped. No recreation or outdoor games. For others: outdoor activities adjusted.
150-174 55.5 - 100	Unhealthy Phase 1	The harmful effects of pollution are felt.	For students with respiratory conditions: stop sports activities. No recreation or outdoor games. For kindergarten students: outdoor sports activities stopped. No recreation or outdoor games. For others: maintenance of low intensity and short duration sports activities in adapted rooms; maintenance of recreation while wearing a mask.
175-200 101-150	Unhealthy Phase 2	The harmful effects of pollution are felt.	For all: stop sports activities. No recreation or outdoor games. Obligatory mask when traveling outside.
201-300 150.5-250.4	Very unhealthy	Health warnings relating to emergency conditions. The entire population is likely to be severely affected and suffer from serious health effects.	For all: confinement in adapted classes when arriving from to the School. Wearing a mask is mandatory when being outdoors.
+ 301 +250,4	Dangerous	Health Alert: everyone can suffer from serious health effects. Emergency conditions affecting the entire population of Bangkok.	School closing at the request of the local authorities and the French Embassy

5) Mandatory wearing of a protective mask

From the 55.5 (PM 2.5) level, wearing a mask is mandatory for outdoor activities.

It is the parent's responsibility to equip their child(ren) with the mask of their choice.

It is up to families to choose the model they wish to use.

From 55.5 (and up to 101) only students with masks will be allowed to stay outdoors during the breaks. Students who come to school without masks will be directed to a confinement room.

6) Creation of Confinement Rooms

In case that we need to stop certain sportive activities or to cancel outdoor recreation, confinement rooms are now available. These rooms are equipped with 3M filters and insulation systems.

Confinement rooms are provided for all our students:

- Kindergarten: students will stay the motricity rooms
- Elementary school: students will stay in the BCD, in the multi activity room and in the gymnasium.
- Middle school: students will stay in the study room.
- High school: students will stay in the foyers.

The main gymnasium will be equipped with air conditionings and an air filtration system for the next back-to-school in March 2021. So, it can be used as a confinement area in case of a high pollution index.

In case of rates above 101 (MP 2.5), all sports activities are stopped, students will stay with their teachers in rooms with filters or confinement rooms (in secondary school).

7) Filters in the Blue Jade transport shuttles

The Blue Jade company has equipped all vehicles providing shuttle buses with HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) type cabin filters.

Finally, I wish to assure you of the full commitment of the Management Team and the Parents' Association regarding this issue.

The Headmaster
Yvan SCHMITT

