



Department of Public Health

Monroe County, New York

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For Immediate Release
June 7, 2023

Statement on Air Quality from Dr. Michael Mendoza, Monroe County Commissioner of Public Health

The wildfire smoke is creating a public health hazard in Monroe County, and conditions may deteriorate before they improve. I am recommending everyone remain indoors as much as possible, with windows and doors closed to limit exposure to outdoor air. If you go outside for a brief period, I encourage you to wear a high quality mask and avoid physical activity. These recommendations remain in effect until further notice.

To determine whether the smoke poses a health risk for some or all individuals, we rely on the Air Quality Index, or AQI. This is a nationally uniform index that reports information about common air pollutants, including particles from wildfire smoke. This index is updated throughout the day, and can be accessed at airnow.gov.

Generally speaking, people with chronic lung or heart conditions, older adults, children and teenagers, pregnant women and outdoor workers are most at-risk for adverse health effects from wildfire smoke. However, when the AQI reaches 200 or above (Purple/Brown), all of us are at elevated risk.

If you have specific concerns about wildfire smoke and your health, please contact your primary care provider.

