

Air Pollution Information for Parents

Whilst Dhaka is a bright and vibrant city, the rapid development comes at a cost - Dhaka is one of the top-5 cities in the world for air pollution. The worst period for pollution is between October - March. At times during this period the air pollution levels can reach over 300 on the US AQI scale (251+ PM 2.5) which is classified as hazardous air (the general public can experience irritation and adverse health effects).

The key health risks of air pollution for children are: increased risk of lower respiratory infections and asthma, and leads to reduced lung functionality. In Bangladesh, long-term PM2.5 exposure shortens lifespans by more than 4 years.

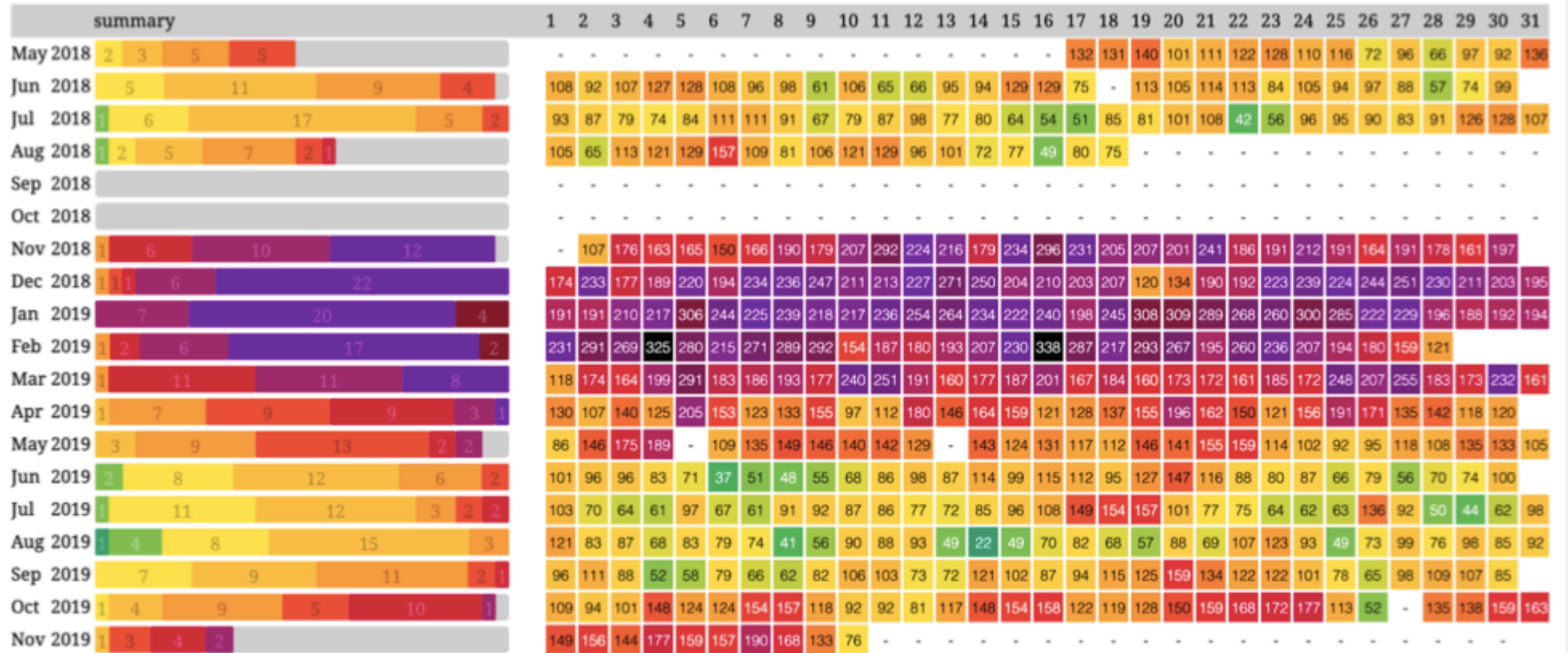
Following a review in 2021, the school implemented a number of actions to address air quality, such as installing air purification devices, having air quality monitors, and developing procedures to manage air quality around the school. However, it is important that families are able to manage this risk outside of school also.

Key ways to manage the risk of air pollution for your family and children include: Keeping windows and doors closed, install air purification units in your home; have air quality monitors in your home; download air pollution monitoring apps to keep aware of outside levels; avoid going outside where possible on days where air pollution levels are high; and ensure family members wear face masks designed for air pollution (must contain particulate filters - dust masks, and surgical masks are not sufficient) when outside.

If you require more detailed information and advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school, which has additional information resources.

Madame Emma Mc VEY

Air quality trends from May 2018 to November 2019 (US Embassy)



Note: the daily AQI is based on the 24 hours average of hourly readings.

US Embassy Dhaka current thresholds (AQI and PM_{2.5}ug/m³)

US EPA Air Quality Index

Air Quality	Air Quality Index	PM _{2.5} (μg/m ³)	Health Advisory
Good	0-50	≤15	None.
Moderate	51-100	16-40	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	41-65	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	151-200	66-150	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	151-250	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Hazardous	≥301	≥251	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.