



Building Partnerships for Tomorrow

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Dear UCESC Staff, Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds everyone enjoying the final days of the school year. We are aware that the poor air quality index caused by the wildfires is cause for concern. We have been in communication with the Westfield Regional Health Department and have followed their recommendations. All outdoor activities for today were canceled and will also be canceled tomorrow. We highly encourage all staff and students to wear N-95 masks and will be providing them tomorrow on a voluntary basis.

We recognize that the smell of smoke and the haziness we are witnessing can cause many individuals to be nervous. Although we are doing our best to limit the conditions in our buildings as much as possible, the odor of smoke may still be present, just as it is in many homes and offices.

The Westfield Regional Health Department has made the following recommendations:

- Stay indoors with windows closed.
- Know your air quality and wait until air quality improves before you resume outdoor activities. You can find current air quality conditions at airnow.gov.
- It is especially important that those with respiratory conditions and children remain indoors during times of poor air quality.
- Consider delaying indoor physical activity if the indoor space is smoke-filled.
- With air quality this poor, it may be normal for some individuals to experience scratchy throats. Those with respiratory conditions should be monitored closely for difficulty breathing.

The Health Department has also provided the following resources related to wildfire smoke:

- Protect Your Lungs from Wildfire Smoke or Ash:
<https://westfieldnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5418/protect-your-lungs-from-wildfire-smoke-or-ash>
- Protecting Children from Wildfire Smoke and Ash:
<https://westfieldnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5417/protecting-children-from-wildfire-smoke-and-ash-factsheet>
- Reduce Your Smoke Exposure:
<https://westfieldnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5416/reduce-your-smoke-exposure>

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at cdattilo@ucesc.org or at 908-233-9317. You can also reach out to your building principal or school nurse.

Sincerely,

Carrie M. Dattilo
Superintendent of Schools