

Saharan Dust Storms

In the Caribbean, dust is higher in the air during Summer and Fall because of Saharan Dust Storms. Breathing in lots of dust is not good for our health.

Breathing in dust is unhealthy and can shorten lives



People who already have other health problems



The elderly



Pregnant women



Infants and young children

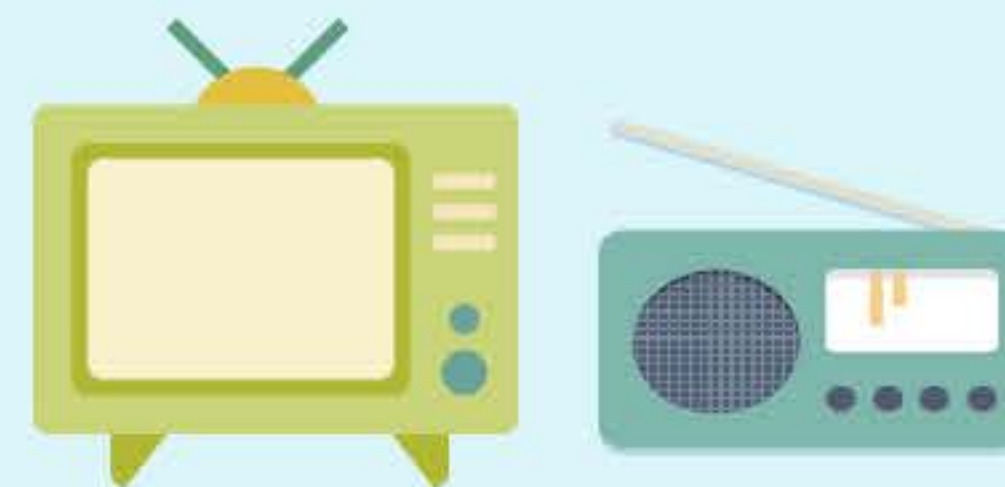


People who work or exercise outdoors

How Can I Avoid Getting Sick from Dust?



Limit outdoor activities when you can see dust in the air.



Look out for warnings from your local news



Place dust mats at the door so dust can't get indoors



Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or wet towel



Don't drink water from outdoor open containers

This fact sheet was created by PEHSU Region 2 team and Blean Girma referencing New South Wales Government (2003), *Dust Storms* factsheet [<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/dust-storms.aspx>]; Griffin, et al.; *African desert dust in the Caribbean atmosphere: Microbiology and public health*, *Aerobiologia* 17: 203–213, 2001. [<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1023/A:1011868218901.pdf>]; Bauer, S.E. et al. (2019) Desert Dust, Industrialization, and Agricultural Fires: Health Impacts of Outdoor Air Pollution in Africa, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 124, 7. [<https://doi.org/10.1029/2018JD029336>]; etc. This material was supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and funded (in part) by the cooperative agreement award number 5 NU61TS000237-05 from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports the PEHSU by providing partial funding to ATSDR under Inter-Agency Agreement number DW-75-95877701. Neither EPA nor ATSDR endorse the purchase of any commercial products or services mentioned in PEHSU publications.