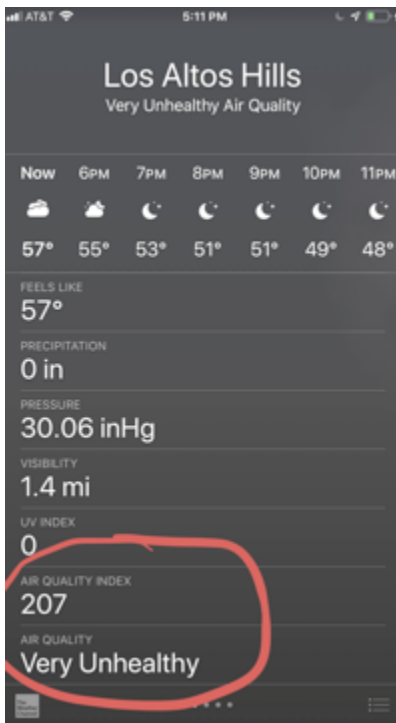




## Campus Closure

Dear Foothill,



By now, you have received district notices that the college is closed today and will remain closed tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 16 to Sunday, Nov. 18. We anticipate resuming classes on Monday, Nov. 19.

Please check the [college website](#) for any updates, especially before heading to work on Monday. The college website has a dedicated page on the closure and includes a FAQ section.

## Emergency Alerts

MAIN CAMPUS AND SUNNYVALE CENTER CLOSED THURSDAY, NOV. 15, THROUGH SUNDAY, NOV. 18

Students and Employees: All classes and college activities are cancelled from Thursday, Nov. 15-Sunday, Nov. 18, due to the ongoing poor air quality. Please stay indoors if you can. Classes are scheduled to resume on Monday, Nov. 19.

Students in Foothill College apprenticeship programs: Please check with your site for individual closure information.

Q. Will the college be closed tomorrow, Friday, Nov 16, 2018? ▶

Q. What does the closure mean for classes and events on campus? ▶

Q. Will faculty and staff have to use leave for this closure? ▶

Q. What if I'm okay with the air quality and need to get a lot done on campus; can I still come in? ▶

Q. Where can I get additional information about air quality? ▶

Thank you for your understanding as we had to make an immediate, emergency decision regarding closing the campuses this morning.

The prolonged, ongoing unhealthy air quality in the area compelled us to make the decision to close immediately, while we then assessed the outlook for Friday and the weekend.

I apologize in advance for any inconvenience that may have caused, especially for classes that were already in session and employees who had already arrived on campus. I am also grateful to the college community as everyone pitched in, and there were no complaints from employees about the need to close.

I want to especially thank members of the President's Cabinet for acting swiftly on all fronts: **Bret Watson, Vanessa Smith, Kristy Lisle, Lauren Balducci, Elias Regalado, Paul Starer, Melissa Cervantes, and Teresa Ong**. As you can imagine, it takes teamwork to close a campus, and I am grateful to them as I was coordinating with them remotely due to my own illness from the smoke. The closure included Sunnyvale Center, Middle College, community education classes,

facility rentals, and online classes. The only exceptions are Celebrity Forum and the apprenticeship sites which is decided by each of the 6 local sites.

Thank you also to **Brenda Davis-Visas** who even held up a campus closure sign for drivers to see as they came onto campus; **Craig Gawlick** for taking care of matters at the Sunnyvale Center; and **Rick Edwards** from the Smart Shop for passing out face masks for students. Special shoutout to Acting Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** for his leadership and close coordination/communication with me.

A faculty member inquired about the drop date deadline, and we were able to move quickly on that. Thank you so much **Anthony Cervantes** for moving quickly on it:

“The last day to withdraw from courses for the Fall Term is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>.

However, due to the campus closure the college has decided to extend the deadline to November 20<sup>th</sup> in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 5 sections 55024 and 58509. Please note that it is strongly encouraged that students discuss their withdrawing from a class with the instructor of that class and/or with their counselor in order to understand how the withdrawal may affect their academic status. The Foothill Admissions and Records Office will assist you next week if you do decide to withdraw from your courses. If you have any questions you can contact them at 650-949-7325 or you can email them at [webregfh@fhda.edu](mailto:webregfh@fhda.edu).”

The healthy and safety of our students, faculty, and staff are our number one priority. We encourage the entire Foothill community to heed the health advice of state and local air quality agencies, including this advice from Foothill College’s Health Center (**Alan McClintick**, PA):

Currently as of 11/15/2015 Santa Clara County is rated as "POOR" Air Quality.

Air Quality may improve by this weekend but is expected to be affected through the weekend to some degree.

Possible Rain next week may bring some relief.  
Person's with Respiratory problems/Illness/Asthma are recommended to stay indoors and wear a n95 mask for Red conditions or if going outside in Yellow (poor) Conditions.

Generally speaking, Do Not exercise outside, go to the Gym. Take it easy. If you have Asthma or use an Inhaler, start using at least one time a day to prevent Inflammation. Seek Medical Treatment if severe coughing or shortness of breath developing.

For person's with Seasonal Allergies, it is recommended to take an Antihistamine such as Zyrtec or Claritin to prevent Flaring of Allergies.

If developing a headache or sinus congestion, you may try sudafed and Ibuprofen.

At the current time it is recommended to limit activities and to stay indoors for POOR air Quality as much as possible.

## MASKS FOR PROTECTION

N95 or N100 rated masks will filter SMOKE PARTICULATES.  
Cloth/Surgical or paper dusk mask used for dust DO NOT protect against SMOKE PARTICLES.

See PDF - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/334-353.pdf>

These types of masks may be purchased from some pharmacies, Home Depot, Lowes and Medical Supply stores.

The Health Center Currently has a limited supply left.

SEE **AIR NOW** WEBSITE FOR CURRENT QUALITY.

[https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.local\\_city&cityid=318](https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.local_city&cityid=318)

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/Pages/wildfire-smoke-11-09-18.aspx>

# SANTA CLARA PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT

## Avoid Breathing Wildfire Smoke

### HEALTH ADVISORY

**November 9, 2018**

[Lea el Aviso de Salud en Español](#)

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA – The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department is advising residents to take precautions due to visible smoke in the air. Wildfires in California are causing air pollution throughout the Bay Area.

If you smell smoke, protect your health by avoiding exposure. If possible, stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside. Set air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside. Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from respiratory conditions, such as asthma or emphysema/COPD. It is recommended that parents and school administrators [check air quality readings](#) before allowing children to practice outdoor sports while air quality is unhealthy.

Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

When air quality is Yellow, or Moderate, air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.

Due to the active wildfires and changing wind patterns, air quality could be variable and unpredictable. Air quality may improve at times or get worse, very quickly. Check the latest air quality data for your area by searching your location at [airnow.gov](#).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued a Winter Spare the Air Alert asking residents to avoid adding additional air pollution activities such as lawn mowing, leaf blowing, driving, and barbecuing. Burning wood, firelogs, pellets, or any other solid fuels in your fireplace, woodstove, or other wood-burning device is illegal during a Winter [Spare the Air Alert](#).

Residents may have questions about using masks to help with protection from wildfire smoke. The most important thing you can do is to stay indoors as much as possible when you smell or see smoke in the air. If you work outdoors or prolonged outdoor activity is unavoidable, and there is heavy smoke, certain masks (for example, properly fitted N-95 masks) can protect against harmful exposure. Masks such as the N-95 are not effective for untrained users and may be more harmful than helpful for people with lung or heart conditions. Employees should work with their employers for direction on when/how to use N-95 masks. Bandanas and typical surgical masks DO NOT protect against wildfire smoke particles.

More Information:

[Real time air quality](#) from United States Environmental Protection Agency Air Now

[Wildfire Safety Tips](#) are available from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

[Information on masks](#) for those who expect significant exposure to smoke from the California Department of Public Health

Air quality forecasts and health advisories from state [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#)

Follow the [Public Health Department on Facebook](#) for updates

We have ordered more face masks, and will have them available on Monday if students and employees still need them.

Is there anything else I should consider? Please let me know by emailing me.

As our college closes due to the unhealthy smoke from the fires, I am reminded by the devastation and intense smokey environment our colleagues and students from the directly impacted community colleges are facing. Thank you Associated Students of Foothill College for coordinating efforts to donate funds to Butte College in particular. Please take a moment to donate to Butte's relief fund, and use your Foothill email address so they know that Foothill College is sending love and support their way. As of Tuesday, the college reported 138 employees have lost their homes and countless students are homeless.

This is what my fellow colleague, Dr. Samia Yaqub wrote this morning:

"As of this writing, 116 faculty and staff have confirmed or presume the loss of their homes. All

areas on campus have been affected, but some more than others: All but one of our police staff have lost their homes; half of the automotive dept have lost their homes. We have at least 1400 students who have been impacted. We sent a survey out to find out how many have lost homes and are tabulating responses now. We are doing everything we humanly can to support our students, faculty and staff while we are closed and will continue these efforts once we re-open. Our Support Center that is open every day this week in Chico to provide counseling, basic needs, financial aid assistance is getting a lot of traffic. Everyone is stepping up and putting the needs of others before their own. I am so proud of our Butte College family."

<https://www.gofundme.com/butte-college-student-relief-fund>



And please allow me to be a “mama bear” here, and implore that you take precaution by staying indoor during the closure and wear a face mask if you go out. It may not look fashionable, but let’s make health fashionable. Be well, Foothill.

Of Service,

Thuy

*Thuy Thi Nguyen*  
President  
Foothill College

650.949.7200