

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 29, 2016**

**Media Contact:**

Joy Alexiou, Public Information Officer  
Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System  
Office: (408) 885-4164; Mobile: 408-595-2936  
[joy.alexiou@hhs.sccgov.org](mailto:joy.alexiou@hhs.sccgov.org)

## **AIR QUALITY RELATED TO THE LOMA FIRE**

**Santa Clara County, CA.** The overall air quality in Santa Clara County is currently moderate. Smoke from the Loma Fire still can be seen in the Santa Cruz mountains and is affecting the air quality in mountain and south county areas. With moderate air quality, people who are unusually sensitive to air quality should consider limiting their physical activities outdoors. Because the fire is still active, it is important for residents of Santa Clara County to pay attention to air quality over the next day and weekend.

"When you see or smell smoke in the air, you may want to avoid strenuous physical activities until the air clears," said Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer and Director of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. "With moderate air quality, people who are sensitive to air pollutants should think about limiting long periods of time outdoors, and limiting any demanding physical activity.

When smoke can be seen or smelled, people with respiratory problems, young children and older adults should limit their time outside and stay indoors as much as possible. Windows and doors should be kept closed to stop pollutants from smoke from coming inside. People in good health should use common sense and limit outdoor activities when smoke is visible.

Symptoms that may develop from the smoke include irritation of the lungs and eyes, coughing, scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. If you develop repeated coughing, chest tightness or pain, wheezing, difficulty breathing or nausea, call your medical provider immediately.

The Public Health Department continues to monitor the situation through its syndromic surveillance system for any increases in reports of respiratory symptoms. Currently there are no increases in Santa Clara County Emergency Department visits related to smoke. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District provides information and updates on local air quality. Please go to [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) or [www.baaqmd.gov/about-air-quality/current-air-quality](http://www.baaqmd.gov/about-air-quality/current-air-quality).

###