



Saharan Dust Update for April 03 - April 08, 2018

DUST FORECAST

Models run and managed by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in its role as the Pan American Centre for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) are predicting a dust episode in which dust concentration amounts are expected to be noticeably high.

In the next 1-2 days, we expect that dust and PM10 concentration levels will increase in northeastern South America. **In the next 2-3 days, dust and PM10 concentrations are expected to increase over Barbados, the Windward and Leeward Islands.** Forecast models indicate PM10 concentrations up to 90-120 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ over northeastern South America (especially French Guiana) and up to 60-90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ over Barbados, the Windward and Leeward Islands. This is above the outdoor air quality guideline of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour mean for particulate matter established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Persons with asthma and those prone to allergic rhinitis may become increasingly symptomatic due to the significantly elevated dust and PM10 concentrations. **Medical facilities may experience increased numbers** of patients with respiratory illnesses. This situation may be exacerbated in territories where the ground surface is dry.

STAY INFORMED

Health stakeholders are encouraged to **consult the 7-day dust forecast in the coming days.** Access this product here: <http://dafc.cimh.edu.bb/dust-prediction/>

CONTACT US

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