



Saharan Dust Update for March 28-April 03, 2018

Current event

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 showing a dust episode in which dust concentration amounts are demonstrably high.

Cayenne, French Guiana has already seen elevated levels of PM₁₀¹ over 160 µg/m³ dust concentrations. This is above the outdoor air quality guidelines of 50 µg/m³ 24-hour mean for particulate matter established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dust forecast

In the coming (1-3) days, we expect that dust and PM₁₀ concentration levels will increase.

Models predict the highest dust and PM₁₀ concentrations in Northern South America, while moderate amounts of dust and PM₁₀ are predicted over Barbados and the Windward Islands.

Another dust episode is expected late next week.

Implications for Respiratory Illness

There may be an increase in symptoms in persons with asthma, and in persons prone to allergic rhinitis due to higher dust and PM₁₀ concentrations. 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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¹ PM₁₀-refers to inhalable particles with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.