**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality Flag Program:**

**Press Release Template**

**Headline: [SCHOOL NAME]** Flies an ADEQ Air Quality Flag

To Protect Student’s Health

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | CONTACT NAME |
| DATE HERE | TELEPHONE |
|  | EMAIL ADDRESS |

[City, State]-- [NAME OF SCHOOL] is raising a brightly colored flag to help teachers, coaches, students, and members of the community be aware of daily air quality conditions. The students and staff of [NAME OF SCHOOL] have joined the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality’s (ADEQ) Air Quality Flag Program to help protect children’s health.

[INSERT QUOTE (PRINCIPAL/KEY STAFF) HERE]

Each day, students at [NAME OF SCHOOL] will raise a flag based on the color of the Air Quality Index (AQI) to show how polluted the air is expected to be. By comparing the colored flags to the AQI, teachers and coaches will know what actions to take to protect the health of their students. Green signals good air quality, yellow is moderate, orange means unhealthy for sensitive groups (like children and people with asthma), and red signals unhealthy air for everyone and outdoor exertion should be limited.

Children are particularly susceptible to air pollution, which can harm their lungs and trigger asthma attacks. The flags can help students with asthma track their symptoms when the air pollution levels are in an unhealthy range. Flags help school staff know when to modify outdoor activities which could include shortening exercise or moving exercise indoors when necessary to protect student’s health.

Getting up-to-date air quality information is easy by subscribing to ADEQ’s Daily Air Quality Forecast at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new> . You can get the daily air quality forecast sent to your email or cell phone. This is especially helpful for those who are sensitive to the effects of air pollution, such as children, outdoor athletes, people with asthma, and older adults.

For more information on the School Flag Program visit <http://www.azdeq.gov/ceh/flag.html>

[Insert link to other local or county air district website.]