



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WELLNESS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

**Ministerial Building, Kingstown,
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, 30th January, 2024

Contact: Permanent Secretary
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

RE: SAHARAN DUST

According to The Meteorological Services at the Argyle International Airport, an occasional film of haze is possible across our area today due to varying concentration of Saharan dust. A thick plume of Saharan dust is expected across the islands by late Tuesday, decreasing visibility across St. Vincent and the Grenadines with moderate-haze and thickening overnight with very poor visibility by Wednesday.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment wishes to advise the public that particles contained within the Saharan dust haze could cause the following health effects:

- a dry cough
- sore throat
- itchy, watery eyes
- sneezing
- runny nose

The anticipated concentrations of the Saharan dust may severely affect persons with respiratory diseases such as asthma and persons with pre-existing heart disease. The elderly and children are also vulnerable currently. Persons with respiratory issues and allergies are asked to always keep with them all medications, including asthma inhalers, in case of emergency. Persons should limit their exposure to the Saharan dust by staying indoors when possible or wearing a dust mask if they must go outdoors.

Affected persons should seek medical attention at their nearest health care center if they experience severe symptoms because of increasing levels of Saharan dust.

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