

# Personal Interventions and Risk Communication on Air Pollution



Summary report of a WHO Expert Consultation,  
12–14 February 2019, Geneva, Switzerland



World Health  
Organization





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### **In memory of Prof Kirk Smith (1947-2020)**

This is the last WHO publication co-authored by Professor Kirk Smith before passing away. The global public health community has lost a tireless mentor, advocate, leader and friend. We, as the authors, will deeply miss his leadership in advocating for strong evidence-based science and fighting for the most vulnerable population to air pollution.

Personal interventions and risk communication on air pollution

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" During major pollution episodes,  
reducing exposure is often  
recommended to reduce the risk of  
acute harm ; however, the greatest  
health benefit is likely to be  
achieved with daily reductions in the  
risk of chronic harm."

## Acronyms and abbreviations

AQI air quality index

API air pollution index

COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

PM particulate matter

PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulate matter of a diameter  $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$

PM<sub>10</sub> particulate matter of a diameter  $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$

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