

Environmental Air Report for New York City, NY

Date: February 20, 2026

This report compiles current air quality, pollutant levels, radiation monitoring, pollen counts, UV index, and other relevant environmental factors from multiple authoritative sources. Data is real-time or near-real-time as of the report date, with variations due to different monitoring stations and methodologies. Standard air quality is measured using the Air Quality Index (AQI), ranging from 0-50 (Good, green) to 301+ (Hazardous, maroon). Key pollutants include fine particulate matter (PM2.5), coarse particulate matter (PM10), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), and sulfur dioxide (SO2). Additional metrics like radioactivity, pollen, allergens, and UV are included where available. Levels are generally good to moderate today, with no major alerts.

Overall Air Quality Index (AQI)

- **Current AQI:** 27-56 (Good to Moderate). Air quality is mostly satisfactory, posing little risk, though sensitive groups may notice minor effects in localized areas.
- **Health Advisory:** Minimal concerns overall; suitable for outdoor activities. Dominant pollutant: PM2.5 in some readings.
- **Hourly Variations:** AQI stable but with slight elevations in PM2.5 up to 21 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in urban spots.

Detailed Pollutant Levels

The following table summarizes measured pollutants from various sources. Units are in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ unless noted as sub-AQI values (0-500 scale). PM2.5 levels are about 1-2 times the WHO annual guideline, indicating low to moderate concern.

Pollutant	Description	Current Level	Category/Notes
PM2.5 (Fine Particulate Matter)	Tiny particles $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ that can enter lungs and bloodstream.	5-21 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (sub-AQI 27-73)	Good to Moderate; main pollutant today. ~1-2x WHO guideline.
PM10 (Coarse Particulate Matter)	Larger particles $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ from dust, smoke, etc.	20-83 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Moderate in some areas.

O3 (Ground-Level Ozone)	Formed by sunlight on pollutants; irritates respiratory system.	19-50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (sub-AQI 23)	Good; lower levels today.
NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide)	From vehicle emissions; contributes to smog and acid rain.	8-43 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (sub-AQI 8-65)	Good to Moderate.
CO (Carbon Monoxide)	Colorless gas from combustion; reduces oxygen in blood.	379-431 ppb (sub-AQI ~3)	Low; no significant concern.
SO2 (Sulfur Dioxide)	From fossil fuel burning; irritates airways.	0.5-15 ppb	Low; typically minimal in urban areas.

Radioactivity Levels

Radioactivity monitoring via EPA's RadNet system shows no available specific updates for NYC today due to data access issues, but historical and regional data indicate normal background levels with no reported incidents or elevations.

Pollen Counts and Allergens

Pollen levels vary but are generally low to moderate today, typical for late winter with early tree activity.

- **Overall Pollen Count:** Moderate (e.g., 59 PPM for trees).
- **Tree Pollen:** Moderate (Cypress/Juniper/Cedar dominant); some sources report none to high.
- **Grass Pollen:** None.
- **Weed Pollen:** None.
- **Mold and Other Allergens:** Not reported high; reduce exposure if sensitive.
- **Forecast:** Levels may increase slightly with warmer days, but remain low overall.

UV Index and Other Environmental Factors

- **UV Index:** 0-1 (Low). Minimal risk; no special precautions needed.
- **Weather Context:**
 - **Current Temperature:** 35-39°F (2-4°C), with RealFeel around 24-31°F due to wind and moisture.
 - **High Temperature (Today):** 39-42°F.
 - **Low Temperature (Tonight):** 27-38°F.

- **Humidity:** 76-92%.
- **Wind:** 10-15 mph ENE.
- **Precipitation/Rain:** 51-90% chance, with light rain/drizzle amounting to 0.06-0.35 inches; cloudy conditions persisting.
- **Other Measured Factors:** No reports of elevated salt, dust, soot, or chemical pollutants beyond standards. Winds may help disperse pollutants, but high humidity could trap particles.

Summary and Recommendations

Air quality in New York City is good to moderate today, with PM2.5 as the primary concern in some areas. Radioactivity remains at safe background levels, pollen is low to moderate, and weather features cool temperatures with rain likely, which may improve air quality by washing out pollutants. It's a fair day for outdoor activities, but check for rain and dress warmly. Sensitive individuals should monitor symptoms. For updates, check [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov), [IQAir](https://www.iqair.com), or [EPA RadNet](https://www.epa.gov/radnet). This report draws from diverse sources to provide a balanced view.