

Khazani Bahrom, 43, said that he initially did not want to send his 10-year-old son Muhammad Haziq to school as the haze showed no signs of abating since yesterday.

“Even I had breathing difficulties. But, I did not want my kid to be left behind in his studies.

“Hours after I dropped him, I was alerted through WhatsApp that schools were told to close,” he told the New Straits Times when met outside Sekolah Kebangsaan Dato Keramat, here.

Many parents were also seen putting on face masks for their children before they were taken home.

Checks by the NST at several pharmacies around George Town also found that the KN95 masks were sold out.

A sales representative from Boon Pharmacy here said the masks were sold out earlier today.

She said the sale of the masks had spiked since yesterday.

“We have informed our supplier and hopefully we can get the KN95 masks soon,” she said.

API readings are categorised as good for between 0 and 50, moderate for between 51 and 100, unhealthy for between 101 and 200, very unhealthy between 201 and 300 and hazardous if more than 301.