

Good Ventilation Helps Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Why Ventilation is Important

- Coronavirus can spread through the air
- Adequate ventilation reduces the amount of virus in the air
- It helps reduce the risk from aerosol transmission (breathing in small particles)
- Ventilation is not a standalone, it should be implemented as part of a comprehensive package of measures.



What Ventilation Is

- Ventilation is the flow of fresh air through a space
- It can be natural ventilation (open doors or windows)
- or mechanical (fans and ducts), or a combination of the two.

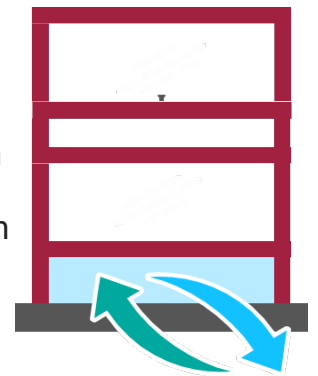
Assess the Risk of Poor Ventilation

- Risk assessment helps you identify workspaces with poor ventilation
- Look for rooms within your site with windows and doors that can't be opened
- Think about spaces that become overcrowded or feel stuffy
- Rooms that are occupied routinely without any obvious ventilation provision should not be used other than for very short durations.



Improve Natural Ventilation

- Open windows, vents and doors (but not fire doors)
- Air rooms frequently by opening windows and doors wide between use
- Make sure you aren't overcrowding spaces
- Open all windows by a small amount to aid mixing and warming of outside air.
- In colder months, the natural forces that drive air through these openings (wind, indoor to outdoor temperature difference) are greater, so windows do not need to be opened as wide. It is important to ensure that opening windows are not completely closed when the spaces are occupied as this can result in very low ventilation rates. Where possible, increasing the distance of occupants from opening windows gives more time for the incoming cool air to mix with warm room air prior to entering the occupied zone.
- Natural ventilated spaces can be complemented by purging a space: that is opening windows fully for several minutes during unoccupied periods, such as breaks or between meetings.
- Rooms that are occupied routinely without any obvious ventilation provision should not be used other than for very short durations.



Using a Mechanical System

- Check any mechanical ventilation systems are working correctly to maximise fresh air



Find Out More

Take steps to improve ventilation:
Ventilation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



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