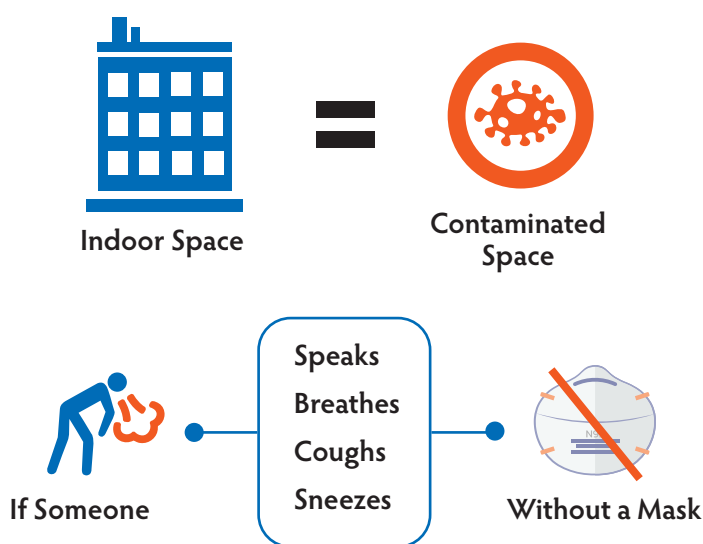


Air Management Strategies



Mitigation Strategies

OMSs should create and implement an air management plan utilizing a layered application of technology and behavior to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Each OMS and facility may have a different combination and method to reach this goal. One prescriptive method does not exist, so no single strategy can be recommended.








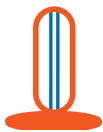
HVAC Systems

Concerns/Considerations

- Isolate contaminated from non-contaminated/clean air spaces.
- Maintain air flow from clean to contaminated areas.
- Increase outdoor air into the building.
- Ventilate interior air outdoors.
- Decontaminate air that cannot be ventilated to the outdoors.

Usage

-  **Humidity** – Keep between 40-60 percent; lower humidity may favor SARS-CoV-2 viability.
-  **Filtration** – Use the highest filter value possible for system.
-  **Outdoor air** – Increase amount of outdoor air circulated in building.
-  **Thermostats** – Reprogram to avoid system shutting off during occupied hours.
-  **Exhaust fans** – Leave on when feasible, especially in bathrooms.






Ultraviolet (UV) Light

Concerns/Considerations

- Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) has the potential to cause human health diseases, including skin cancer and eye disease.
- UVGI cannot be used in an occupied space, except when installed in an upper-room fashion.

Usage

-  Suspend UVGI lamps from ceilings or upper portion of walls; shield base of lamp to direct radiation upward and outward.
-  Consider UV technology installation in HVAC ducts.
-  Consider Far UVC, which can inactivate virus without human health risks in occupied spaces.





Portable HEPA Filtration Units

Concerns/Considerations

- No direct research exists to verify if a HEPA air purifier reduces the transmission of COVID-19.
- SARS-CoV-2 is generally carried in respiratory droplets, which are much larger than other particles known to be captured by HEPA filters.
- Use as an adjunct to the HVAC system to expedite room air exchange.

Usage

-  Place portable units during and immediately following an aerosol-generating procedure.
-  Place so surgical personnel are not between the patient and the HEPA filtration unit, which would direct patient spatter and aerosols toward them.





Air Scrubbing/Decontamination

Concerns/Considerations

- Though the absolute benefit of air scrubbing for decreasing SARS-CoV-2 transmission in an OMS office is unclear, it may still be beneficial to improve the general air quality and reduce the recirculation of contaminants.
- The ions created through air scrubbing are dispersed throughout all the air in the workspace, extending to areas where UVGI or even some fogged disinfectants may not reach.

Usage

-  Wet scrubbing uses a damp or wet medium to filter particles and contaminants out of the air.
-  Dry scrubbing utilizes the properties of positive and/or negatively charged ions to destroy certain molecules, disrupt the vitality of airborne organisms and viruses, and cause airborne particles to aggregate, fall and/or be caught in filters.

Review the full [White Paper on Air Management Strategies](#) for more information.

