

COVID-19 Guidance on Ventilation in the Workplace

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency is issuing a series of alerts to help keep workers safe.

Ensuring adequate ventilation throughout the work environment can help maintain a safe and healthy workplace. Employers should work with a qualified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) professional to determine steps necessary to optimize building ventilation. An HVAC professional can ensure that the ventilation system is operating as intended.



Taking the following steps can help reduce employee risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Instruct sick workers to stay home.
- Consult with an HVAC professional and building management to maintain relative humidity between 40-60%.
- When changing filters, ensure workers wear appropriate personal protective equipment. ASHRAE recommends N95 respirators, eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, or face shields), and disposable gloves.
- Make sure exhaust fans in restrooms are fully functional, operating at maximum capacity, and set to remain on.
- Ensure policies encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For the latest guidance and other resources on protecting workers from coronavirus, visit OSHA's Protecting Workers Guidance.

OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.

