



As many businesses are planning back to work strategies, consideration should be given to HVAC systems and settings. There are a number of heating, cooling and air conditioning operating parameters that can minimize the chance of spreading SARS-CoV-2 (the virus associated with COVID-19). The Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Associations (REHVA) and The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) have outlined some practical steps that should be taken.

REHVA Guidance

- / Secure ventilation of spaces with outdoor air
- / Switch ventilation to nominal speed at least two hours before the building usage time and switch to lower speed two hours after the building usage time
- / At nights and weekends, do not switch ventilation off, but keep systems running at lower speed
- / Ensure regular airing with windows (even in mechanically ventilated buildings)
- / Keep toilet ventilation 24/7 in operation
- / Avoid open windows in toilets to assure the right direction of ventilation
- / Instruct building occupants to flush toilets with closed lid
- / Switch air handling units with recirculation to 100% outdoor air
- / Inspect heat recovery equipment to be sure that leakages are under control
- / Switch fan coils either off or operate so that fans are continuously on
- / Do not change heating, cooling and possible humidification setpoints
- / Do not plan duct cleaning for this period
- / Replace central outdoor air and extract air filters as usually, according to maintenance schedule
- / Regular filter replacement and maintenance works shall be performed with common protective measures including respiratory protection



This information is for guidance only

/ For further information or specific advice please contact on of the following

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ASHREA recommend that the following modifications to non-healthcare building HVAC system operation should be considered:

- / Increase outdoor air ventilation and disable demand-controlled ventilation
- / Open out- door air dampers to 100% as indoor and outdoor conditions permit
- / Improve central air and other HVAC filtration to MERV-13 (ASHRAE 2017b) or the highest level achievable.
- / Keep systems running longer hours (24/7 if possible).
- / Add portable room air cleaners with HEPA or high-MERV filters with due consideration to the clean air delivery rate (AHAM 2015).
- / Add duct- or air-handling-unit-mounted, upper room, and/or portable UVGI devices in connection to in-room fans in high-density spaces such as waiting rooms, prisons, and shelters.
- / Maintain temperature and humidity as applicable to the infectious aerosol of concern.
- / Bypass energy recovery ventilation systems that leak potentially contaminated exhaust air back into the outdoor air supply.



Social Distancing

Keep at least 1 metre (3 feet)
ideally at least **2 metres** (6 feet) from one another

- / Wash your hands regularly
- / Do not shake hands or make close contact

