



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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March 23, 2020

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Director General:

As the world responds to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, we want to thank the World Health Organization for its leadership in preventing further spread of the disease and ensuring that accurate scientifically-based information is provided to the media and the public.

Founded in 1894, ASHRAE is a global professional society committed to serve humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and their allied fields. We write to you **to offer our expertise and resources** to help limit the spread of the disease in buildings, including hospitals and emergency care centers. With over 57,000 ASHRAE members in 192 chapters located in 132 countries, these resources and technical assistance can be readily disseminated around the world.

ASHRAE has developed proactive guidance to help address COVID-19 concerns with respect to the operation and maintenance of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems. [This webpage](#) provides easily accessible resources that can be provided on a complimentary basis to government entities, which include:

- ***Isolation Rooms and other Health-Related Spaces:***
 - How to ensure negative pressure airflow to prevent airborne contaminants, bacteria and viruses from escaping the isolation room
 - How to control the air change rate, temperature and humidity with effective controls
 - How to monitor indoor air quality and particulate counts, and how to alert building operators when needed
 - ASHRAE's Technical Committees (TCs) can provide technical guidance on:

- Healthcare Facilities (TC 9.6)
- Laboratory Systems (TC 9.10)
- Clean Spaces (TC 9.11)
- ***Ventilation, Filtration and Air Cleaning***
 - How to ensure that occupants in quarantine have healthy indoor environments
 - How to monitor indoor air quality
 - Whether occupants should operate windows
 - Use of ASHRAE Standard 62 for proper ventilation in commercial and residential buildings
 - Use of ASHRAE Standard 170 for proper ventilation in health-care facilities
 - Use of ASHRAE Standard 52.2, *Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size*
 - Use of ASHRAE's *Indoor Air Quality Guide* for health care intake and waiting areas, crowded shelters, and similar facilities.
 - Use of ASHRAE's *Position Document on Airborne Infectious Diseases*, which identifies ventilation, particle filtration and UVGI as controls that are demonstrated to be effective.
- ***HVAC Systems Design and O&M to prevent spread***
 - How to ensure systems are controlling spread of viruses
 - How to ensure proper use of ventilation rates, airflow regimes, filtration, and ultraviolet germicidal irradiation
 - Whether and how to filter or clean indoor air to protect occupants
 - ASHRAE's Technical Committee 2.9, "Ultraviolet Air and Surface Treatment" can provide additional technical assistance with all aspects of equipment and systems that utilize ultraviolet radiation to destroy or deactivate chemical and/or biological air and surface contaminants in HVAC systems and indoor spaces.

HVAC&R systems play an important role in preventing the spread of infectious disease, and ASHRAE stands at the ready to help provide resources and answer questions. Our vision is to create a healthy and sustainable built environment for all, and we offer our assistance to realize this goal. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Darryl.boyce@carleton.ca. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Darryl Boyce, P. Eng., FASHRAE
ASHRAE President, SY2019-20