



Ventilation (HVAC) Strategy for the return to campus

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Carleton University is committed to the health and safety of all of campus community.

As part of that commitment, Carleton is following the advice of [Ottawa Public Health](#), [Public Health Ontario](#), the [Government of Ontario](#), and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) for the latest information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and recommendations for prevention.

As we approach fall term, we know that the students are eager to return to face-to-face learning as indicated from the Carleton University Scenario Planning (CUSP) Working Group.

In order to support and maintain a safe indoor building environment, the role of ventilation and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems is important to ensure the continued health and safety of the campus community. Currently, Carleton University is adhering to the core recommendations of the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers ([ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force](#)) guidelines. These outline five major priorities that should be followed to reduce the risk of airborne infectious aerosols. In brief, they are as follows:

- 1.) Public Health Guidance - follow all regulatory and statutory requirements
- 2.) Ventilation, Filtration, Air Cleaning – provide required outdoor airflow rates; use MERV 13 or better filters; use air cleaners as required (MERV - Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value and is used to evaluate the efficiency of an air filter based on how effective it is at capturing particles, <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/filtration-and-disinfection-faq>)
- 3.) Air Distribution – promote air mixing without causing strong air currents
- 4.) HVAC System Operation – maintain proper temperature and humidity; maintain clean air supply as designed for occupancy; when necessary operate systems for a time to achieve three air changes; limit re-entry of contaminated air.
- 5.) System Commissioning – verify that HVAC systems are functioning as required.

Carleton has engaged with a third party to conduct a thorough review of all HVAC systems to ensure we are compliant with the above. In addition, Carleton is examining additional strategies to keep all of our members safe and is considering technologies such as UV-C air disinfection in classrooms and high congregation areas. In addition to these strategic actions, Carleton continues to monitor all HVAC operations in real time to immediately identify and address any concerns.

If you have any concerns regarding the above, please contact ehs@carleton.ca