Ventilation

Bringing fresh air into an indoor space can decrease the spread of COVID-19.

Why is ventilation important

COVID-19 is airborne and spreads when a person breathes out tiny droplets or aerosols that contain the virus.

These aerosols can float in the air for a long time, and others can breathe them in. Ventilation adds fresh air and lowers the number of aerosols in a room, reducing the risk of transmission from one person to another.

Five ways to let fresh air in

1. Natural ventilation

Natural ventilation uses natural airflow to bring fresh air into a space. Where possible, open doors, windows and vents to let fresh air into rooms and corridors.

2. Ventilation using existing heating and cooling systems

Most home air conditioners are 'split system'. If you have a split system, keep it on rather than on auto. To work effectively some windows or doors need to be left open.

Some older units use evaporative cooling systems bring in air from outside. Some units may be able to be used in 'fan' mode to bring in outside air when cooling is not needed.
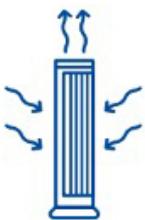
3. Filter air with portable air cleaners

Portable air cleaners (filtration units, scrubbers or purifiers) use filters to remove aerosol particles and other contaminants and release clean air. Put air cleaners in places with the least least ventilation, and keep them away from windows, vents, fans, and grilles.

4. Ceiling and pedestal fans

Fans circulate air in a room but do not provide fresh air. Use them in addition to other methods and open windows and doors to dilute or remove aerosols. Place pedestal fans near an open window if possible and point them away from people, so they do not blow air onto someone.

5. Limit the number of people in a space

Consider reducing the number of people in the space. If you have visitors to your home or workplace, provide good ventilation.