



VENTILATION ENHANCEMENTS IN DISTRICT 97 SCHOOLS

District 97 has implemented layers of mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, including enhancements to our schools' ventilation systems and air quality. Following ASHRAE's standards for indoor air quality, we have taken the following steps to ensure safe and healthy learning environments:

Regular maintenance and inspections on HVAC systems



District 97 performs monthly preventive maintenance and care on building HVAC systems to ensure that all systems are performing at optimum levels. In addition, certified technicians provide annual inspections of HVAC systems, reducing the risk of air quality issues and creating a healthier learning environment.

Ensure HVAC settings are maximizing ventilation

District 97 has increased the number of air changes of clean air per hour from three to six, reducing or eliminating HVAC air recirculation. We continue to run the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for two hours before and after the building is occupied. Additionally, we have increased air filter ratings to the highest they can be without significantly reducing the design of airflow, which improves central air filtration by trapping smaller particles, including viruses.



Open windows and have outdoor breaks, weather permitting



All staff have the option to open classroom windows when weather conditions allow to further increase air changes per hour. We also hold certain activities, including recess and snack breaks outdoors, when circumstances allow.

Provide HEPA air purifiers for high-risk areas

District 97 currently uses portable HEPA air purifiers to enhance air cleaning in higher risk areas, such as lunchrooms, windowless classrooms and nurses' offices.



Conduct air quality testing at all D97 buildings



State-certified environmental specialists perform air quality surveys throughout the district's schools and the administration building. These surveys, conducted in occupied classrooms/spaces, measure the performance of the buildings' ventilation and air filtration systems, which helps to identify any issues and ensure that all areas of district buildings are within ASHRAE recommended levels.
