

Q&A: HVAC

Managing Director of Placemaking, Sara Maffey, [sat down with Kevin Boltz](#), Director of National Engineering to understand how asset air handling will change to address COVID-19.

Q: _____

A: _____



*Transwestern is frequently updating HVAC protocols in response to COVID-19. Contact **Kevin Boltz** with questions.*

Q: What air filter is recommended for use in office buildings?

A: ASHRAE recommends MERV-13 filters or higher. When systems cannot handle the increased size or air pressure, an electrostatically treated filter can be used to meet the MERV-13 rating.

Q: What other methods can improve air quality?

A: ASHRAE recommends the use of UVGI (Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation) lighting inside air handling units, particularly in high-risk areas such as waiting rooms and lobbies.

Q: How is the amount of fresh air intake in air handling systems changing?

A: ASHRAE recommends increasing the amount of fresh air circulated. This will depend on humidity, outside air temperatures and the building's systems. During milder seasons or in milder climates 100% outside air may be achieved.

Q: How can managing relative humidity improve air quality?

A: When humidity is higher, the COVID-19 virus droplets fall faster and lessen the chance of airborne transmission. ASHRAE recommends a 10-20% increase in relative humidity levels to 40-60%.