

HVAC Strategy for Campus Return

The University has implemented a series of measures, in keeping with Public Health directives, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

While measures such as mask use are fundamental to reducing the chance of spread, we recognize the importance of effective ventilation systems and how they can help interrupt possible virus transmission.

Our [Building Infrastructure](#) group is responsible for the safe and efficient operations of all HVAC systems on campus. Their team utilizes guidance from Public Health and other entities such as [ASHRAE](#) to ensure compliance with the most recent regulations related to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The following general enhancements to our building ventilation systems are currently in place:

University owned buildings older than 15 years have had all ductwork cleaned in conformance with [NADCA](#) guidelines which is a robust standard for this type of work.

HVAC maintenance such as filter changing is being completed and tracked through an automated work order system. This work is scheduled for when there is no occupancy to prevent system shut downs.

Energy recovery systems that have the potential to leak contaminated exhaust air back into the outdoor air supply have been disabled.

Comprehensive systems commissioning and air balancing has been completed in all buildings. This assessment ensured that the amounts of air being requested by our building systems are being delivered.

Additional quick alert notifications have been added to ensure problems are identified quickly and equipment operation is continuous.

Additional measures in classrooms and other areas with higher occupancy density:

Air filtration is being increased to MERV-13 or the highest level achievable.

Outdoor air ventilation rates have been tested to ensure we are meeting or exceeding minimum ventilation levels set by ASHRAE Standard 62.1 for acceptable indoor air quality.

Air quality sensors such as carbon dioxide detectors have been serviced and replaced where needed. The University deployed new sensors that have additional capabilities to help let us know where additional fresh air is needed.

Extended runtimes have been added to ventilation systems before and after scheduled room use.

If you have any questions on any of these measures, please email us at facilities@uwinnipeg.ca