Good ventilation helps you reduce the spread of COVID-19

Why ventilation is important
• Coronavirus can spread through the air
• Adequate ventilation reduces the amount of virus in the air
• It helps reduce the risk from aerosol transmission (breathing in small particles)

What ventilation is
• Ventilation is the flow of fresh air through a space
• It can be natural ventilation (open doors or windows) or mechanical (fans and ducts), or a combination of the two

Assess the risk of poor ventilation
• Risk assessment helps you identify workspaces with poor ventilation
• Look for rooms with windows and doors that can’t be opened
• Think about spaces that become overcrowded, feel stuffy or smell bad
• Consider using a CO2 monitor to identify poor ventilation

Improve natural ventilation
• Open windows, vents and doors (but not fire doors)
• Air rooms frequently by opening windows and doors wide between use
• Make sure you aren’t overcrowding spaces

Using a mechanical system
• If you can’t get enough natural fresh air, consider introducing a mechanical system
• Check that anyone managing your systems understands how they operate
• Check any mechanical ventilation systems are working correctly to maximise fresh air

Talk to your workers
• Let your workers know why ventilation is important
• Explain how they can play their part

Find out more
Take steps to improve ventilation: Ventilation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
Further information

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit the HSE website.

You can order HSE priced publications at the HSE Books website.

HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

This publication is available on the HSE website.

© Crown copyright. If you wish to reuse this information visit the HSE website for details.

Published by the Health and Safety Executive 10/21