

We have heard questions about ventilation concerns relating to COVID-19, so we would like to share some information about this topic.

Following CDC guidelines, Meredith is increasing the number of filter changes for HVAC systems from two to four times per year and optimizing the amount of fresh air we are bringing into the building through ventilation. For areas or buildings where we have a positive Covid19 case, as part of the cleaning procedure, the filters for that system will also be changed. It is important to keep in mind that optimizing ventilation systems is helpful in the fight against spreading the virus, as are the reductions being made in class size, social distancing, the wearing of masks, and hand washing hygiene. The return air from areas travels through several hundred or more feet of ductwork and through multiple filter systems before it is mixed with fresh outside air, reconditioned and returned through several more hundred feet of ductwork to supply vents in the building.

Opening windows produces a number of conditions that *exacerbates* ventilation, cooling and heating issues when hot humid air is introduced into the building. The system therefore has to work harder, it wreaks havoc with the programs that are trying to control specific set points, and it provides an opportunity for unwanted pests, animals, and other undesirables to enter our buildings.

For residence halls and buildings where we cannot optimize bringing in fresh air, Facilities Service has ordered air cleaning devices that will be installed in air handling units which typically serve a portion of or a full floor. Everyone is urged to report any issues with HVAC as quickly as possible through the online work order system.