

Ventilation in the School Setting

This guidance outlines recommendations for improving indoor air quality in the Maricopa County K-12 school setting to reduce the airborne concentration of SARS-CoV-2 and thus the risk of transmission through the air.

IMPROVEMENT STEPS THAT SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF MAY TAKE:

- Increase the amount of **outdoor air** circulating in rooms. Use caution in high-pollution areas.
 - **Open windows and doors** to increase the amount of fresh outdoor air, weather permitting. Do not open windows or doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g. excessive heat, risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to the students in the facility
 - **Fans** can be used to increase the effectiveness of airflow from windows if done properly.
 - Fans should be positioned securely and safely in or near windows and operated on exhaust mode to prevent blowing potentially contaminated air from one person to another¹
 - **Reduce occupancy** in areas where outdoor ventilation cannot be increased
- Use **portable room air purifiers** with HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters, especially in higher-risk areas, such as the nurse's office or isolation rooms

Additional sources for air quality guidance that may benefit school administrators, facility managers, technicians, and service providers are:

- [ASHRAE, Reopening of Schools and Universities](#)
- [ASHRAE, Guidance for Building Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic, May 2020](#)
- [CDC, Operating Schools During Covid-19: CDC's Considerations, Sept 1 2020 \(scroll down to view section on ventilation\)](#)

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>