

Topic 15: Ventilation



Agenda

- Welcome
- How Does Ventilation Work?
- Why Does Ventilation Matter?
- Reflection

Learning Objectives

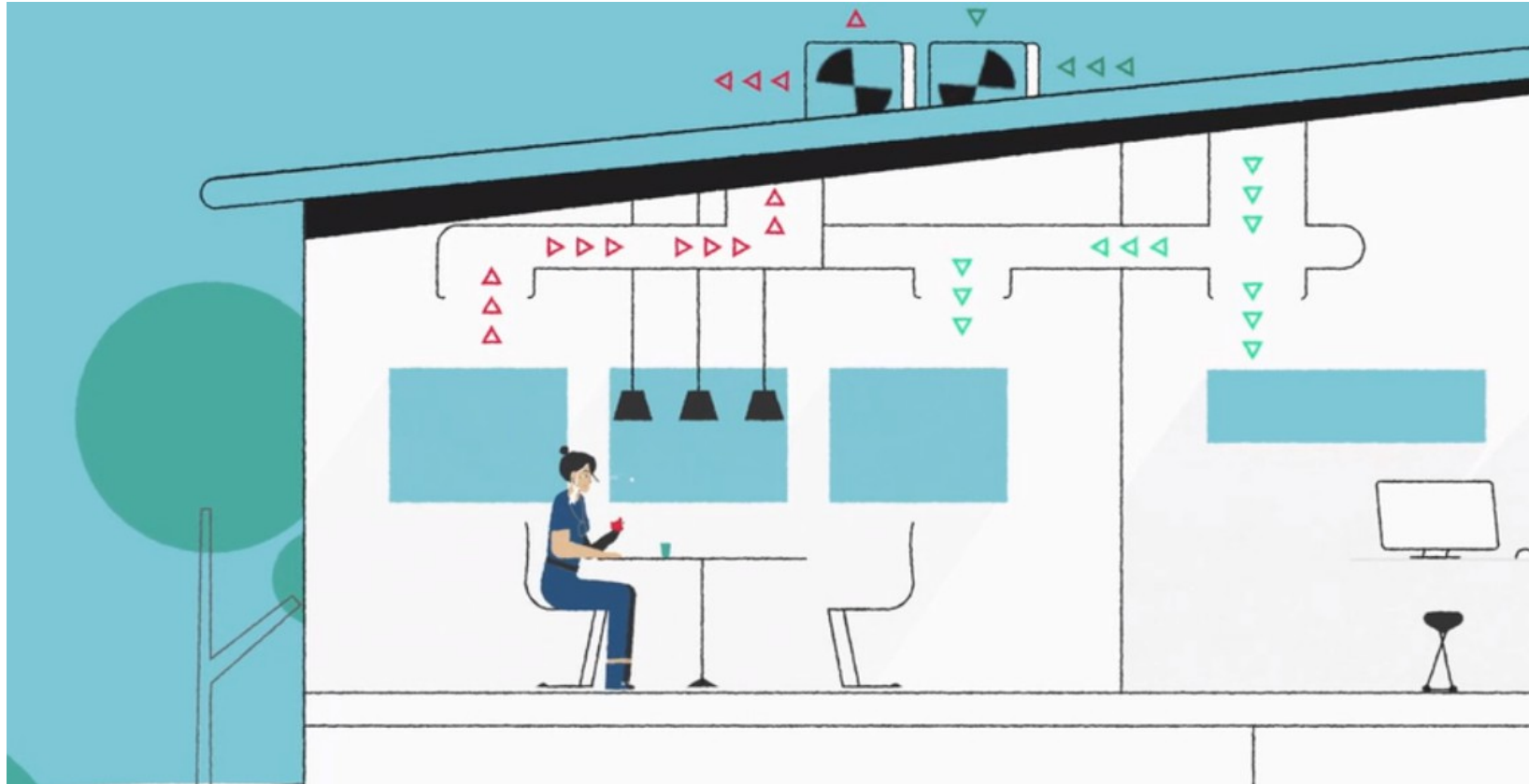
- Discuss why **good ventilation is important** for infection control in healthcare.
- Discuss one (1) way that **ventilation works to reduce the amount of germs in the air.**
- Describe one (1) reason why **it is important not to take steps to improve ventilation yourself**, without working with the staff in your facility in charge of air handling and ventilation.

Definition

Ventilation

The movement of air in and out of an enclosed space. For example, the circulation of fresh air to a room or building.

How does ventilation work?



Why does ventilation matter in healthcare?

- Having clean air in healthcare can **reduce the risk of germs spreading** among people, including patients and healthcare workers.
- Nearly **every room inside a healthcare facility has a recommended number of air changes per hour**, which is the time it takes for a room's old air to be replaced with new or filtered air.

STEPS to Support Good Ventilation

- **Know how long** it takes for the air in certain rooms, such as patient rooms, to clear.
- If you're entering a room without recommended PPE, **make sure the air in the room is cleared first.**
- **Don't take actions on your own** to change how air is handled.
- **Have questions? Ask** the person with responsibility for air filtration and ventilation at your facility.

Reflection

-

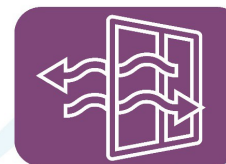
Questions?

Do you have remaining questions about ventilation?

VENTILATION IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

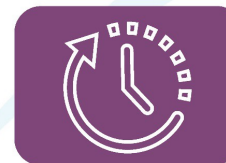
In healthcare settings, ventilation is important because it helps remove things from the air that we don't want to breathe in - like small virus particles. Good ventilation improves air quality and reduces the risk of germs spreading.

WHAT TO KNOW



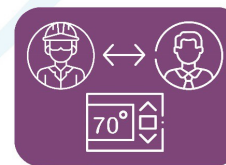
Understand what an air change is and why recommended air changes per hour are important in healthcare.

- An air change means the air in a room is replaced with new air.
- Air changes are usually measured by the hour - air changes per hour (ACH).
- In healthcare facilities, nearly every type of room has a recommended number of ACHs to help reduce the risk of germs spreading among patients and staff.



Respect wait times to allow the air in rooms to clear.

- The infection prevention or clinical leaders in your area, like your nurse manager, will use the ACH to figure out how long a room should sit empty after a patient with a possible or confirmed respiratory infection has left.
- It is okay to enter a room before the air is completely cleared, including while the patient is still there, if you use the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).



Ask before making changes to the ventilation in a room.

- Rooms are often connected in healthcare facilities.
- Making a change to the ventilation in one room - like opening a window or closing vents to adjust temperature - can change the ventilation in other places, too.
- **That's why it's important to talk to the person or team at your facility that is responsible for maintaining air filtration and ventilation if you have concerns about the ventilation in a room.**



Make sure vents are not blocked.

- A blocked vent could prevent the ventilation system from functioning like it is supposed to.

Resources and Future Training sessions

Project Firstline on CDC:

[https://www.cdc.gov/infection control/projectfirstline/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/infection%20control/projectfirstline/index.html)

Project Firstline on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CDCProjectFirstline/>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/CDC_Firstline

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvvp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGViKDdRtlc13VX>

To sign up for Project Firstline e-mails, click here:

https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USCDC_2104



Feedback Form



Ventilation