

# Topic 15: Ventilation



# Agenda

- Introductions
- 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.

# Introductions

## **Please introduce yourself with:**

- Your name
- Your role (e.g., organization, unit)
- Whether your job has responsibilities related to ventilation

**How does  
ventilation play a  
role in our lives?**



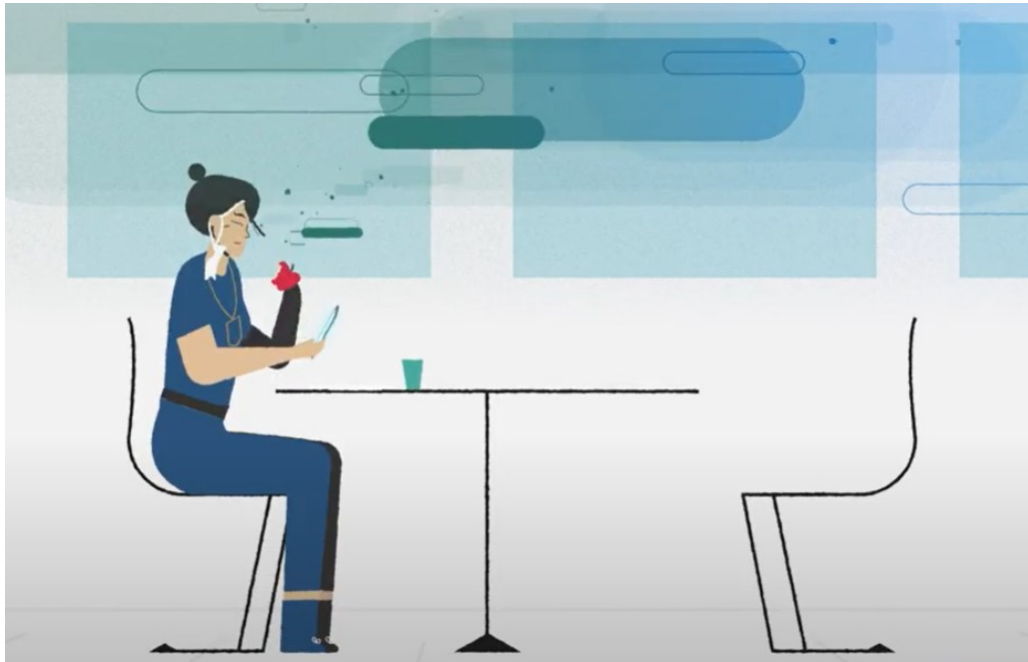
# Definition

## 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?

# How does ventilation work?



## INSIDE INFECTION CONTROL

### WHAT IS VENTILATION?

EPISODE 17

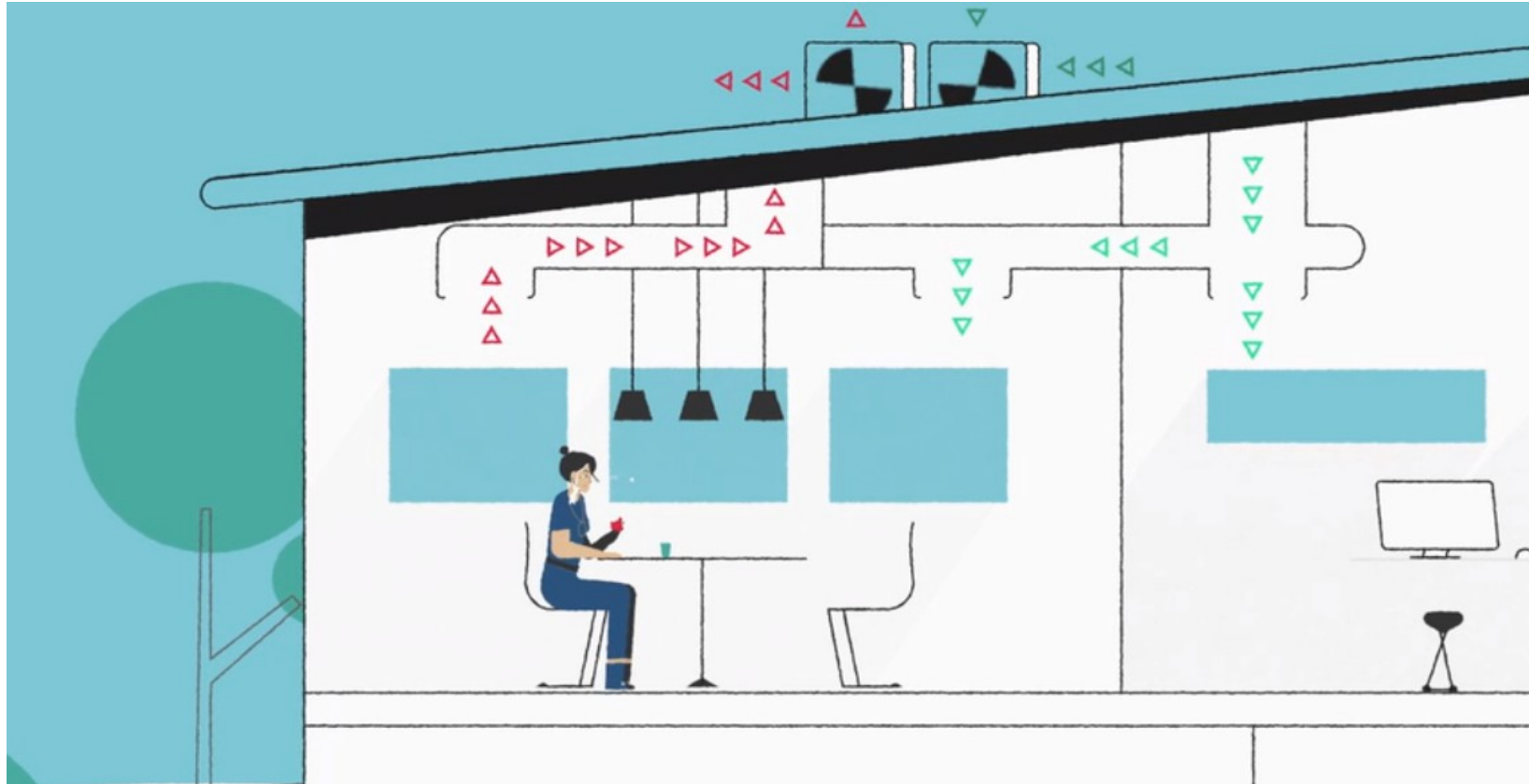




**What would good  
ventilation do?**



# Good ventilation



**How is ventilation  
handled at your  
workplace?**



# Why Does Ventilation Matter?

# Instructions

## While watching the video:

- Think about your workday.
- Jot down instances when your actions at work may impact ventilation.

# INSIDE INFECTION CONTROL

## WHY DOES VENTILATION MATTER?

EPISODE 18



**What actions do you take at work that may impact ventilation?**



# Ventilation in Healthcare

- **What do you need to know about ventilation?**





# 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.

# Breakout Groups

## Rehearse what you would say when

- You're concerned about the ventilation and need to seek help.
  - Who would you speak to?
  - What would you say? What questions would you ask?
- You wish to express appreciation for solving a ventilation problem in your facility.
  - Who would you speak to?
  - What would you say?

# Discussion

- Do you know **who** to go to at your facility to share concerns or ask questions about ventilation?
- **What** did your group identify as a potential concern or question about ventilation?
- What **questions** would you ask?
- Is there anything related to ventilation at your facility that is **going particularly well**?

# Reflection

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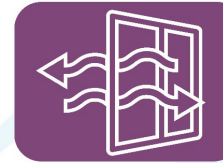
# Reflection, Continued

- What is one action that you could take to **support good ventilation in your workplace?**
- Type one action in the chat.

## VENTILATION IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

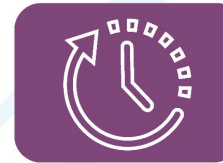
In healthcare settings, ventilation is important because it helps remove things from the air that we don't want to breathe in - like small virus particles. Good ventilation improves air quality and reduces the risk of germs spreading.

### WHAT TO KNOW



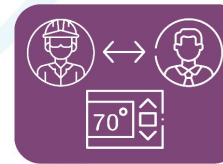
#### Understand what an air change is and why recommended air changes per hour are important in healthcare.

- 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.

• **Questions?**



# 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](https://twitter.com/CDC_Firstline)

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGViKDdRtlc13VX>

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

[https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic\\_id=USCDC\\_2104](https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USCDC_2104)



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