

LIST OF TOP STORIES, STUDIES AND GUIDANCE THAT COMPELS US TO ACT

Includes reference source links

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that schools (and daycares) are hubs for spreading infectious illnesses into the community.

More than 70% of US household COVID spread started with a child, study suggests.

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/more-70-us-household-covid-spread-started-child-study-suggests>

In the winter of 2022, after COVID-19 mitigation measures were mostly lifted, a cocktail of contagious viruses tore through US schools and daycares

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/28/health/china-respiratory-illness-surge-wellness>

Providing proper amounts of ventilation and air cleaning can substantially reduce the transmission of infectious airborne illnesses and absenteeism of children and teachers.

Schools that improved ventilation had 39% fewer Covid cases, compared with schools that had not. Schools that combined better ventilation with filtration had 48% fewer cases.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/27/health/schools-indoor-air-covid.html?smid=em-share>

Recent reports in international health science literature have provided quantitative evidence that HEPA filters in classrooms can significantly reduce absenteeism of children and teachers due to respiratory illnesses

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2398713-schools-cut-covid-19-sick-days-by-20-per-cent-using-hepa-air-filters/>

<https://yle.fi/a/74-20062381>

Multiple world-leading health science and engineering bodies that have done reviews since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have concluded that ventilation rates of indoor spaces such as in classrooms need to be increased very substantially from what has been the norm in recent decades.

LANCET Commission on COVID-19

[Proposed Non-infectious Air Delivery Rates \(NADR\) for Reducing Exposure to Airborne Respiratory Infectious Diseases — Lancet Commission on COVID-19](#)

American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

[ASHRAE Approves Groundbreaking Standard to Reduce the Risk of Disease Transmission in Indoor Spaces](#)

https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/free%20resources/design-guidance-for-education-facilities_version-2.0.pdf

US Centre for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>

US EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools>

Ontario Society of Professional Engineers [Safer Indoor Air](#)

Public Health Authorities have been slow to accept that long-range transmission of airborne aerosols is a major cause of the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses that cause widespread sickness in respiratory illness seasons. As a result, governments have been slow to recognise the need for the increased ventilation rates called for by the health science and engineering experts. However, there are encouraging signs of the needed paradigm shift beginning.

[Indoor air systems “absolutely key” in curbing spread of viruses | 60 Minutes - CBS News](#)

[Why We’re Still Breathing Dirty Indoor Air - The New York Times](#)

Nature article: Diseases in the room

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a32e09cace86487a80a3762/t/64430967271eb61594e9724e/1682114920714/Indoor+air+is+full+of+flu+and+COVID+viruses+Nature+03-2023.pdf>

Example of Portland Public Schools

[Portland Public Schools secures 3,500 air purifiers to improve classroom air flow - oregonlive.com](#)

Recent guidance from the World Health Organization

WHO recommends measures to reduce the risk of respiratory illness, which include recommended vaccines against influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens as appropriate; keeping distance from people who are ill; staying home when ill; getting tested and medical care as needed; wearing masks as appropriate; ensuring good ventilation; and practicing regular handwashing.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON494>