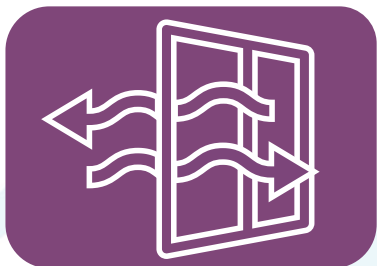


VENTILATION IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

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 health care.

- 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.